Hot Topics

Poor New England Air Quality Continues

From Jul 27 – 30, Connecticut measured numerous exceedances on the 2015 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard for ozone. The Westport, Stratford, and Madison monitors in Connecticut recorded 8-hour concentrations of 88 ppb, 87 ppb, and 86 ppb, respectively, on the 29th. On Jul 30, poor air quality was also measured at the Lynn monitor in Massachusetts (77 ppb), the Rye monitor in New Hampshire (74 ppb), and the Kennebunkport and Cadillac Mountain monitors in Maine (75 ppb and 72 ppb, respectively). This brings the total number of execeedance days in New England to 17.

EPA Takes Swift Action to Resolve Dispute at Loring Air Force Base, Maine

Maine Department of Environmental Protection filed for a dispute against the U.S. Air Force pursuant a Federal Facilities Agreement at Loring Air Force Base. The dispute revolved around what do with a stockpile of discarded AFFF drums at the Site. The region decided to save taxpayer dollars by not prolonging the dispute, and immediately resolve the dispute by conducting an EPA-led removal action to dispose of the drums. An Action Memo is under development. EPA will reserve its rights to cost recover if and when PFAS become hazardous substances.

Army Begins Treatment of PFAS Contaminated Well at Fort Devens, Massachusetts

The Army will begin connecting the Town of Ayer, Massachusetts's well water to a granulated activated carbon system to treat PFOA/PFOS. The Army is also putting the finishing touches on the Environmental Services Cooperative Agreement with Ayer to reimburse Ayer for part/all of its permanent treatment system for PFOA/PFOS.

EPA to Sample Drinking Water Wells Adjacent to Fort Devens Sudbury Training Annex, Massachusetts

The EPA is coordinating with MassDEP's Drinking Water Program to sample nearby and on-site Town of Maynard, Massachusetts drinking water wells for PFAS near Ft. Devens. Following the Army's refusal to sample the drinking water wells for PFAS, the EPA intends to sample the wells as soon as next week. Given the high levels of PFAS in nearby monitoring wells, it is prudent to conduct the sampling/analysis as soon as possible.

Consent Agreement and Final Order for TSCA Violations

On July 25, Region 1 filed a consent agreement and final order settling claims against Ahmad Alijabbari for violating TSCA by failing to disclose known lead-based paint hazards at leased property in Lewiston, Maine. The settlement calls for the payment of a $8,697 penalty and the performance of lead-based paint abatement SEP worth $69,581.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Vineyard Wind Permit Public Hearing

On Aug 1, the OCS permit team will hold a public hearing from 6-8 pm in New Bedford, Massachusetts soliciting comments on the Vineyard Wind draft OCS and Title V air permit for an 800 MW windfarm off the southwestern coast of Martha's Vineyard. The public comment period on the draft permit ends on Aug 1.

Hot Topics

Limetree Bay's PAL Application and Air Quality Modeling of the EJ Analysis
PAL: Region 2 developed the draft PAL permit (without the monitoring provisions) and shared with HQ (OGC, OECA, and OAQPS) as well as ORC in Region 2. Changes to the draft PAL permit have been made to address comments from all parties and the revised draft permit is currently under a second round of review at various offices. Region 2 sent the following documents to ORC and OECA for review: 1.) Draft of PAL Permit; 2.) Fact Sheet; 3.) Public Notice; and, 4.) Cover Letter. Region 2 will hold a public hearing and public availability session on St. Croix for this permit action. The timing depends on when the public notice is published. EJ Analysis/Ambient Air Monitoring: Region 2 completed its review of the EJ analysis and presented its findings in a separate document. Region 2 developed the draft ambient monitoring plan and the draft ambient air monitoring conditions based on these findings with the region's monitoring experts from the Edison, NJ office. The draft ambient monitoring plan was sent to Aimee Ford, Limetree's attorney on 7/18 as a response to its 6/4 monitoring proposal. The ambient monitoring conditions and the EJ review documentation are being reviewed by ORC. Region 2 contacted Aimee Ford on 7/26 to find out if Limetree had comments on Region 2's response. Ford said a call will be arranged to discuss the monitoring plan with all involved. Region 2 will not share the draft ambient monitoring permit conditions until after this call.

Trash-Free Waters
In collaboration with OITA, Region 2 is designing a Trash-Free Waters toolkit with an emphasis on public engagement. This toolkit provides a step-by-step guide on how to develop a Trash-Free Waters program in communities in the U.S. and abroad. The toolkit will roll-out in Fall 2019/2020 in the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica and Panama.

Newtown Creek Superfund Site, New York City
On 7/25, Region 2 issued an Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent ("2019 AOC") to five parties (Phelps Dodge Refining Corporation, Texaco, Inc., BP Products North America Inc., Brooklyn Union Gas Company d/b/a National Grid NY, and ExxonMobil Oil Corporation) organized as the "Newtown Creek Group" (NCG) for purposes of addressing their responsibility at the Newtown Creek Superfund Site. The 2019 AOC requires the respondents to undertake, pursuant to CERCLA, a focused feasibility study ("FFS") concerning hazardous substances in the lower two miles of the Newtown Creek, a waterway the serves as a partial boundary between Brooklyn and Queens and is on the National Priorities List. A remedial investigation and feasibility study for the site is being conducted by six parties, including these five NCG members, under a separate administrative settlement agreement issued by Region 2 in 2011 to address site conditions more broadly. The FFS to be performed under the 2019 AOC will evaluate, as Operable Unit 3 of the site, the nature and extent of hazardous substances in the lower two miles of the creek and will develop and evaluate alternatives to address impacts of such hazardous substances. In the FFS process, the respondents will also evaluate hypotheses concerning the conceptual site model being developed for the site. Following completion of the FFS, Region 2 anticipates that, if appropriate, it will select a remedy for an interim early action at the site. It is anticipated a final remedy decision for the lower two miles will be memorialized in the future site-wide remedy.

Dewey Loeffel Superfund Site, Town of Nassau, NY
Region 2 received a request for a tour and an interview with staff for an in-production documentary film about the site by Barbara Reina, a video producer and a former Register Star reporter. Region

2 plans to offer a tour and an interview with RA Lopez on either 8/22 or 9/10.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Superfund Redevelopment Initiative Event at Cinnaminson Groundwater Contamination Superfund Site, Delran, NJ
The Cinnaminson Landfill solar field energizing event is scheduled for 8/6. RA Lopez is scheduled to attend.

Smart Sectors Agriculture Event
Region 2 is coordinating on an Ag Sector Smart Sectors launch on 9/4-5 in Cortland, NY. Upper Susquehanna Coalition is a local partner, as is headquarters' Office of Policy. RA Lopez and Region 3 staff are participating. Tate Bennett, AA for the Office of Public Engagement and Environmental Education, and Dave Ross, AA for the Office of Water, also haven been invited.

Hot Topics

Brownfield Redevelopment Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Grant Award Announcement, Weirton WV

On July 29, Region 3 Administrator Servidio participated in a ribbon cutting celebration at the Three Springs Business Park, for Pietro Fiorentini, an Italian based company specializing in the manufacturing of valves, metering devices, and treatment plants for the natural gas industry. Governor Jim Justice announced the grand opening of the company's new 100,000 square foot, $9M facility. EPA Brownfields assessment funding was used to prepare the site for the redevelopment. Joining in the announcement was Senator Capito, Congressman McKinley, Senator Manchin's representative, City of Weirton Mayor Miller, Business Development Corporation of the Northern Panhandle (BDC), and West Virginia Development Office. At the event, EPA also announced the award of a $600,000 Brownfields coalition assessment grant to the BDC and its coalition partners.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) Open House for Naval Support Activity Mechanicsburg, PA

An Open House was held on July 31st in the Park Inn near Naval Support Activity Mechanicsburg to answer questions and sign people up to have their private wells sampled for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). No on-base sampling has been conducted but 11 potential on-base PFAS release areas related to firefighting foam have been identified. The Navy sent 130 letters to residents within 1 mile of the Base with known or suspected drinking water wells to request sampling permission. Additionally, approximately 2,800 postcards were sent to residents in the same area asking if they have a drinking water well.

Region 3 Excellence In-Site Reuse Award Event – Croydon TCE NPL Site.

On Friday, August 2, the Region 3 Administrator will present the Heritage Conservancy with the Region III Excellence In-Site Reuse Award for their environmental stewardship of the Croydon TCE NPL Site. The Hertiage Conservancy acquired a large portion of the Site in 2016. On May 4, 2019, the Heritage Conservancy held a ribbon cutting for the opening of the Croydon Woods Nature Preserve on the Site. The presentation of this award coincides with the 20th anniversary celebration of the Superfund Redevelopment Initiative (SRI) program. The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Keystone Elementary School, and the Bucks County Commissioner, will receive Certificates of Appreciation at the event for their support of the efforts of the Heritage Conservancy.

Department of Justice Files Complaint and Lodges Consent Decree For the BoRit Asbestos Superfund Site Located in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania

On July 25, 2019, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) filed a civil action against Whitpain Township (Settling Defendant), pursuant to CERCLA §§ 106 and 107(a), in connection with the BoRit Asbestos Superfund Site (Site), located in the Borough of Ambler, , Pennsylvania. DOJ also filed a Notice of Lodging of Consent Decree, which, once the Consent Decree is entered, will involve Settling Defendant performing certain operation and maintenance activities on the Park Parcel, which is one of three properties that comprise the Site, and placing an environmental covenant on the Park Parcel. The contamination at the Site is a result of disposal of manufactured asbestos-containing products from 1897 until 1964. In 2008, EPA initiated a removal action to cover asbestos-containing material in accordance with applicable NESHAP regulations; and on July 28, 2017, EPA issued a Record of Decision for the Site. EPA constructed a cap over much of the Site, which included covering the asbestos-containing wastes, soils and reservoir sediments with geotextile fabric,

followed by the placement of at least two feet of clean material, and another six inches of topsoil and vegetation on top.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Nothing to report this week.

Hot Topics

Ethylene Oxide
Key Message: Region 4 continues to field inquiries focused on EtO concerns at two Georgia sterilizer facilities, Sterigenics in Cobb County and BD in Covington, Georgia. Regional staff have engaged with OAQPS, HQ, local officials, and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division to plan a community session and open house for Cobb and Fulton counties on August 19th. Media interest is high. Smyrna, GA. Open Press.

Yazoo Backwater
Key Message: On August 2nd, Region 4 Administrator Walker and staff will be joining the Office of Water in a meeting with the Corps of Engineers in Washington, DC. Additionally, Region 4 staff plans to participate in a tour of the Yazoo Backwater Area on August 19th.

DOE Paducah, KY C-400 Disputes
Key Message: On August 1, RA Walker signed a MOA with DOE/Paducah and the Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection resolving the two remaining SEC-level disputes at the Paducah facility. As part of the SEC discussions, the principals agreed to integrate dispute resolution/facilitation into technical discussions in an effort to reduce the number of disputes at the facility going forward.

Terry Creek Update
Key Message: The Region anticipates DOJ to lodge the Consent Decree for Terry Creek this week. The court has set a deadline of July 31st for DOJ to file their motion or provide a status report by August 1st. DOJ has requested they be allowed to include 10 additional pages beyond the maximum allowable for the US position statement. The Region is coordinating communication efforts in preparation for this week's deadline.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Georgia CCR Permit Program – The Region is coordinating with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division to hold a Public Hearing regarding the GA CCR Permit Program. The public hearing will be held at the Georgia Environmental Protection Division training center on August 6, 2019. The Region has notified state and federal elected officials about the public hearing and has offered them an opportunity to comment during the hearing.

Proposal for the Redesignation of Hillsborough County, FL 2010 SO2 Nonattainment Area (FL-144, 154), published in the Federal Register on July 31, 2019.

Hot Topics

Progress on Redesignation of SO2 NAAQS in Steubenville, Ohio, Area
Key Message: Progress toward approving the SO2 attainment plan for the Steubenville area will allow prompt redesignation.

Region 5 had expected adverse comments to the proposed approval of Ohio's and West Virginia's Steubenville SO2 attainment plans, however only supportive sets of comments were received. The Region has drafted a notice of final rulemaking for Headquarters review.

Region 5 Proposes to Delist Three Superfund Sites: South Minneapolis Residential Soil Contamination, Buckeye Reclamation Landfill, and Duell & Gardner Landfill
Key Message: Region 5 is on-track to delist all or portions of six Superfund sites during FY19, doubling last year's total of three. For all three proposals, 30-day public comment periods began July 31.

The partial delisting of the South Minneapolis Residential Soil Contamination site (Minneapolis, Minn.) includes removing more than 600 residential properties from the site. A small number of residential properties will remain part of the Superfund site until EPA can complete cleanup. The site is near a former pesticide manufacturing plant that made arsenic-based pesticides. It is believed that the powder-like arsenic trioxide was blown off-site.

Cleanup of the Buckeye Reclamation Landfill Superfund Site (Belmont County, Ohio) included placing a solid cap over areas where landfill activities occurred and constructing a wetland area to treat the liquid that drains from the landfill. Coal mine waste disposal activities and landfill operations took place in the area for several decades. Deep underground coal mining occurred near the site until the early 1950s, and a landfill operated on-site from 1971 to 1991. The landfill received solid industrial and municipal wastes, as well as industrial sludge and liquids.

This proposal marks the end of the soil cleanup at the Duell & Gardner Landfill Superfund site (Dalton Township, Mich.), while the groundwater treatment system will remain in place. The landfill was used for the disposal of waste from the mid-1940s to 1973. Industrial and municipal waste was deposited in unlined trenches, depressions, and on the surface of the site, which resulted in soil and groundwater contamination. The state now oversees and monitors the site.

Shelter in Place Advisory Issued Following Werner & Son Recycling Facility Fire in Frankfort, Ind., on July 29
Key Message: Preliminary air monitoring results, conducted by Region 5, indicated particulate levels (PM10) at > 400 ug/m3 and initial benzene levels at 150 ppb, leading to a shelter in place advisory being issued by the fire department.

The facility, which is near a residential neighborhood, provides commercial and residential recycling services. The fire spread to an adjacent building, which reportedly collapsed, but has since been extinguished and the shelter in place advisory lifted.

Five Governors Propose Six-Part Great Lakes Protection Plan
Key Message: The plan, endorsed by Govs. Pritzker (Ill.,) Whitmer (Mich.,) Evers (Wis.,) Walz (Minn.,) and Wolf (Penn.,) includes increased GLRI funding.

The governors want to incrementally increase GLRI funding to $475 million per year. The plan also requests funding for a project to prevent invasive Asian carp from reaching Lake Michigan by fortifying the Brandon Road Lock and Dam and to address contamination from PFAS.

On July 23-24, Region 5 Staff Participated in the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council Events in Indiana
Key Message: The Opportunity Zone (OZ) workshop, led by the Indiana Opportunity Investment Consortium, illustrated how Indiana is leading the issue through multi-agency partnerships with nonprofit/public leaders and the private sector.

The workshop was followed by an OZ tour and several stakeholder meetings, led by White House OZ Director Scott Turner. Region 5 representatives shared EPA cross-programmatic and Brownfields information pertinent to OZs.

Aug. 1 Public Meeting on Proposed Permit for Sterigenics
Key Message: Illinois EPA has scheduled a public meeting to accept oral comments on a proposed permit for Sterigenics, a commercial ethylene oxide (EtO) sterilizer in Willowbrook, Ill. The permit would require new controls to significantly reduce emissions.

Sterigenics, the subject of intense public concern since EPA's ambient air sampling found elevated levels of EtO near the facility, has been under an Illinois seal order since February 2019. On July 17, the Ill. AG and DuPage County State Attorney filed a motion seeking court approval of a proposed consent order, but on July 24 a DuPage County judge ruled that four area municipalities could be added to the legal proceeding. The consent order and proposed permit would allow the facility to reopen after installing stringent controls. Despite the stringency of the required controls, there is public and political opposition to allowing the facility to reopen.

Aqua Illinois to Host Open House on Aug. 1 in Crete, Ill.
Key Message: Aqua Illinois President Craig Blanchette will join technical experts to provide University Park residents with the most recent updates.

The event will begin with an "open-house" format so that residents can visit designated stations around the room to ask the experts questions, followed by a brief overview and Q&A session. Neither, Illinois EPA nor EPA were invited to participate in the event.

Region 5 Attended Rep. Gallagher's (Wis.) "River in Recovery" Tour on July 31
Key Message: Region 5 was invited to participate in the tour of the Plum/Kankapot Watershed Restoration Area, as an opportunity to see the real-world impacts of funding, such as GLRI.

During the tour, participants discussed the funding process — from application to implementation, what works effectively, and areas where policy makers can improve the process to encourage more participation. The tour also stopped at the Valley Metropolitan Sewerage District treatment wetland to learn about the only water quality trading project in Wisconsin.

Region 5 Participated in Congressional Tour Aboard USGS's Research Vessel *Kiyi*
Key Message: On July 30, Rep. McCollum (Minn.) and House Appropriation Committee staff were joined by EPA, Wisconsin DNR, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for a comprehensive tour of completed and in-progress Great Lakes restoration and brownfields work in and around the St. Louis River Area of Concern in Duluth, Minn.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Chicago Regional Lab to Host Tour for Sen. Duckworth Interns on Aug. 6
Key Message: The tour, requested by the Senator's office, will give the staffers an opportunity to see first-hand how the lab contributes to the agency's mission and provides support on both a local and national scale.

RA Stepp to Host Region 5 Awards Ceremony on Aug. 6
Key Message: The annual event offers the region an opportunity to recognize the achievements of Region 5 staff. Regional and separately paneled national awards not presented during the national awards ceremony will be awarded during the Aug. 6 event.

OMB, OCFO, OW and OCIR to Participate in Chicago GLRI Project Tours Aug. 6-7
Key Message: The packed two-day tour will give attendees a sense of the progress made through GLRI, what challenges the Great Lakes continue to face, and the importance of partnerships in achieving our goals.

On Aug. 6, Great Lakes National Program Office, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and Illinois DNR representatives will lead a tour of Asian Carp prevention efforts. On Aug. 7, GLNPO and USACE representatives will lead a tour of habitat restoration on Northerly Island. Later in the morning, GLNPO with Chicago Park District will provide a tour of a habitat restoration project of Big Marsh in southeast Chicago. This will be followed by a tour of a green infrastructure project in Gary, Ind., hosted by GLNPO, USGS and the city of Gary. Lastly, GLNPO, Indiana DNR and USACE representatives will lead a tour of the Grand Calumet River Area of Concern – including sediment remediation and habitat restoration sites and the combined disposal facility.

Hot Topics

Exxon Mobil, Baytown, Texas
EPA is working with the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and Harris County to respond to a fire/explosion that occurred at the ExxonMobil Baytown Olefins Plant on July 31. EPA has deployed emergency response personnel and rapid assessment assets, including the ASPECT aircraft, to assist with the response. The fire was extinguished at 9:00 pm, but ExxonMobil will continue to apply water to the tower for vapor suppression and to prevent re-ignition. Air monitoring conducted along the perimeter and in adjacent community areas has not detected any contaminants of concern. EPA will continue to closely monitor the situation and provide additional response assistance as needed.

Mosaic Uncle Sam, Convent, Louisiana
On July 31, LDEQ informed Mosaic that it will not grant a Clean Air Act variance for the use of spray evaporators to help reduce the inventory of process wastewater at the Uncle Sam facility. While Mosaic has other options for reducing wastewater inventories, volumetrically, the use of spray evaporators was the most significant. On July 29, Mosaic reported that it revised its wastewater reduction goal down to 140 million gallons (from 300 million) by September 30, 2019. This is due largely to less than expected rainfall.

Bird Creek Settlement, Pawhuska, Oklahoma
On July 30, Jireh, one of three operators under the Bird Creek Enforcement Orders, signed the Bird Creek settlement agreement. The remaining two operators, Warren American and Novi/Grayhorse, are expected to sign this week. EPA is targeting August 7 for issuing public notice on the various permitting actions to implement the settlement requirements in the Pawhuska, Oklahoma, newspaper, a weekly publication that comes out on Wednesdays. The 35-day public comment period will include a public hearing 30 days after notice.

Pueblo of Laguna TAS Application, New Mexico
The Pueblo of Laguna's TAS application completed the 30-day Public Comment period on July 30. No comments have been received as of July 31. The application requests CAA authority under Sections 107(d)(3) and 126. With this authority, the Pueblo will be notified of CAA permit and permit modification applications. The Pueblo previously received approval for CAA Sections 105 & 505(a)(2).

PFAS Sampling at Joint Reserve Base, Fort Worth, Texas
The Navy will begin to perform PFAS Remedial Investigations (RIs) at Texas bases in coordination with the State of Texas, including the Texas Department of Health. The Navy has identified the Joint Reserve Base in Fort Worth, Texas, as potentially having individuals with ground water wells that may be used as drinking water (several miles away). Details are still being worked out with TCEQ, but the expectation is a public meeting will be held to discuss PFAS prior to sampling. The Navy will host a Risk Communication Training the first week of August.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Arkansas Interstate Transport 2010 1-Hour SO2 SIP, Arkansas
On August 1, EPA approved elements of the Arkansas SIP related to the SO2 Interstate Transport Requirements, the "good neighbor" provision of the CAA for the 2010 SO2 NAAQS. The good neighbor provision requires each state's implementation plan to contain adequate provisions

prohibiting emissions which will significantly contribute to nonattainment or interfere with maintenance of the 2010 SO2 NAAQS in other states. When finalized, the AR SO2 transport SIP will be the first approved SO2 transport SIP in Region 6.

Partial Withdrawal of Direct Final Action to Revise the Texas SIP, Texas
On August 1, EPA approved a partial withdrawal of a direct final rulemaking on the low-income repair assistance program (LIRAP) from the Texas SIP. On June 6, EPA published direct final rulemaking to approve remove of two rules from the Texas SIP: the motor vehicle anti-tampering requirements and the LIRAP for participating Early Action Compact (EAC) counties. We received relevant adverse comments on the LIRAP portion of the rulemaking and will address the comments in a separate subsequent final rulemaking for the LIRAP.

DFW 2008 Ozone Attainment Demonstration Plan, Texas
By August 7, a decision by HQ is expected regarding finalizing action to bump up the DFW area from moderate to serious for the 2008 Ozone NAAQS. TCEQ provided both oral and written comments requesting that EPA delay the required serious SIP revision submission date from 12 months to 18 months.

Houston/Galveston/Brazoria 2008 Ozone Attainment, Texas
By August 7, a decision by HQ is expected regarding finalizing action to reclassify the HGB area from moderate to serious under the 2008 ozone NAAQS. TCEQ provided comments, asked for additional time to submit the serious area SIP revision, and asked that EPA delay finalization of the bump up to allow consideration of potential exceptional events during 2018, which if approved, the area would be meeting the 2008 ozone NAAQS.

New Mexico Statutes, New Mexico
By August 15, a decision by EPA is expected on the final approval of revisions to New Mexico's SIP, which incorporates revisions to the state's statutory authority. The city of Albuquerque commented on the proposal. The Region has had discussions with both NMED and the city. This final action incorporates additional portions of the statute to address comments.

Arkansas Regional Haze Phase II SIP Revision, Arkansas
By August 30, EPA anticipates final approval of the Arkansas Regional Haze Phase II SIP revision. On December 31, the comment period for EPA's proposed approval closed and adverse comments were submitted. The SIP revision addresses SO2 and PM BART requirements for electric generating units (EGUs) and reasonable progress requirements for SO2 and PM emissions and will replace a portion of the existing FIP.

August 2	Environmental Conference, Austin, Texas
August 4	Santo Domingo Pueblo Feast Day, Albuquerque NM
August 6	Blacks in Government Conference, Dallas, Texas

Hot Topics

SRI 20th Anniversary Event with Administrator

Key Message: EPA commemorated the 20th anniversary of the Superfund Redevelopment Initiative at the Madison Mine/Anschutz Mine in Fredericktown, Missouri. The mine is sometimes referred to as the "Cobalt Mine." In 2018, Missouri Mining Inc. purchased the Madison Mine/Anschutz Mine with a pledge to clean up and restore mining operations to extract cobalt, which could result in a significant positive impact on the local economy.

- EPA Region 7 issued a press release and supported a HQ event in Fredericktown, Missouri.

EPA Recognizes the St. Louis Cardinals for 10 Years of Work in Reducing Food Waste

Key Message: Administrator Andrew Wheeler recognized William Dewitt III, president of the St. Louis Cardinals, for "A Decade of Partnership in Sustainability" and presented a national award to Urban Chestnut Brewing Company as the "2018 Small Business Partner of the Year" for waste reduction achievements as a WasteWise Partner.

Garvey Elevator Superfund Site – Explanation of Significant Differences Signed

Key Message: An Explanation of Significant Differences has been signed by the Region 7 SEMD director to modify soil gas cleanup levels previously established in a 2013 Interim Record of Decision.

- The Garvey Elevator Site is a grain storage facility where the now-banned fumigant carbon tetrachloride was released to the environment through leaks in the distribution system, resulting in soil and groundwater contamination.
- The EPA issued an Interim Record of Decision in 2013 for excavation of contaminated soils and on-site treatment. Cleanup levels were calculated in accordance with EPA guidance at the time.
- This ESD modified the cleanup levels to account for updates to EPA guidances on vapor intrusion and human health risk assessments.
- The financial and environmental benefits to be realized by the implementation of the ESD include reduced on-site treatment time, operational costs and energy expenditures, and the accompanying environmental footprint.
- A Remedial Action Complete for this Superfund site is expected this fiscal year.

Partial Deletion of Omaha Lead Superfund site

Key Message: The final rule to delete 500 residential parcels of the Omaha Lead Superfund Site was published in the Federal Register on July 29, 2019.

- The Omaha Lead Superfund site includes surface soils present at residential properties contaminated by deposition of aerial emissions from the operation of two former lead-processing facilities.
- This is the 4th partial deletion of this site, with 2,049 cumulative site properties deleted from the NPL.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

41st Annual Blacks in Government National Training Institute

Key Message: On August 6, 2019, Deputy Regional Administrator Ed Chu will participate in the EPA Agency Forum at the 41st Annual Blacks in Government National Training Institute in

Dallas, Texas.

St. Joseph Lead Education Stakeholder Summit
Key Message: On August 6, 2019, a summit will be held that brings together federal, state, local and community group partners to discuss the next steps in the fight against lead poisoning in St. Joseph and recognize resources and potential partnerships. The mayor of St. Joseph will open the meeting, with the EPA Regional 7 Administrator Jim Gulliford giving remarks and a roundtable with the HUD RA and ATSDR regional director. Additional participants include Dr. Brownfield, the Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit, Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance and the Wichita State Environmental Finance Center. A working session will follow.

Hot Topics

Proposed In-Situ Uranium Recovery Project in South Dakota: EPA received over a thousand pages of comments and over 7,000 mass emails on the 2017 draft Underground Injection Control permits issued for the proposed project. Powertech (permit applicant) raised concerns with some of the conditions in the proposed permits; tribes, landowners and NGOs raised concerns about the project in general. R8 has worked with HQ to address the comments and plans to re-issue the permits for public comment on August 26, 2019. A public hearing will be held in October in Hot Springs, South Dakota.

Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Advisories: R8 is closely tracking Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) events in surface waters. As of July 29th all R8 states are responding to HAB events. At least 19 water bodies across Region 8 are currently impacted.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Congressional visit to Lowry Landfill Superfund Site, Aurora, Colorado

U.S. Congressman Jason Crow and aides from U.S. Congressman Ken Buck's office will be touring the Lowry Landfill Superfund site on August 2, 2019. This site received Congressional attention recently because some members of the community are opposed to a proposed residential development in the City of Aurora north of the landfill. EPA R8 and the State of Colorado will participate in the visit.

Hot Topics

Mexican Border

Our San Diego Border Office and the No. American Development Bank will hold the first of two workshops for potential applicants for our Border 2020 funds. Our competitive funding opportunity will close September 17. Selections will be announced by NADBank in late October.

- Tijuana River sewage: if OITA confirms the NADBank report re Tijuana River sewage diversion options is ready for public distribution, RA Mike Stoker plans to convene local stakeholders next Thursday, August 8, in San Diego to discuss next steps.
- Nogales AZ water infrastructure: Region 9 managers will meet with ADEQ Director Cabrera and local partners to resolve technical issues regarding repair of the wastewater outfall (the IOI) which moves effluent from Nogales Sonora to Nogales Arizona.

SDWA Enforcement: we completed three consent orders with smaller California systems in violation of the arsenic MCL, two in Los Angeles County and one in No. California.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Tribal Programs:

- OITA AA Chad McIntosh will visit Navajo Nation next week and meet in Window Rock with NNEPA Director Oliver Whaley and possibly President Nez. We are providing briefing materials to OITA.
- Enforcement Director Amy Miller, ORA senior managers Laura Ebbert and Alexis Strauss, and Regional Counsel attorney Ivan Lieben will brief the Colorado River Indian Tribal Council in Parker, AZ on August 8 regarding EPA jurisdiction over various facilities in Indian Country.

ORD: DRA Deborah Jordan will participate in the DRA/DAA/ORD meeting in Chicago on August 8 to prepare for the transition of National Program Manager responsibilities.

Agriculture: Regional Administrator Mike Stoker and Agricultural Advisor Amy Miller will meet with the Western Plant Health Association at its conference in Sacramento August 7, and then meet with State Water Resources Control Board member DeeDee D'Adamo. The RA will also make remarks at our refinery compliance assistance workshop in Concord, CA.

Hot Topics

Region 10 Attends International Joint Commission Transboundary Mining Roundtable Discussion (AK): On August 5th, Region 10's Mining Advisor will represent EPA at a roundtable discussion arranged by U.S. Senators Murkowski and Sullivan (AK). The objective is to introduce the International Joint Commission (U.S. and Canadian sections) to the status and perspectives of the federal, state, tribal, and local communities regarding Transboundary Mining issues between Alaska and British Columbia.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Region 10 Issues Final Moscow, Idaho NPDES MS4 Permit: Region 10 has issued a final NPDES permit to the City of Moscow, Idaho Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). Region 10 received a final CWA Section 401 certification from the State of Idaho on July 19th. This final permit action authorizes MS4 discharges to Paradise Creek and the South Fork Palouse River. This permit action helps reduce the pending permit backlog.

Region 10 Partners to Conduct Suction Dredge Mining Inspections in North Idaho: During the week of August 5th, EPA Region 10 inspectors will be participating in inspections of suction dredge mining operations in North Idaho on the South Fork Clearwater River. Region 10 will be joined by U.S. Forest Service and Idaho Dept. of Environmental Quality personnel for the inspections.

Region 10 Authorizes First Discharge Under Reissued General Permit for Alaska Offshore Seafood Processors: Region 10 received the first of an expected 85 Notices of Intent under the recently-reissued NPDES General Permit for Offshore Seafood Processors in Alaska. The region issued the first discharge authorization under the permit on July 31st. The permit became effective July 17, 2019 and authorizes discharges of seafood processing waste from vessels in Federal Waters off of the coast of Alaska. Under the permit, vessels will only be required to grind fish waste in cases where they have a projected annual discharge greater than 10 million pounds and are discharging within Steller sea lion critical habitat areas. In consultation with National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the EPA has included additional mitigation measures aimed at minimizing impacts to endangered species, while also being responsive to the needs of the industry.

Hot Topics

Packages for Signature:

- Site Remediation RTR (Proposed Rule)
- Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) and Nonattainment New Source Review (NSR): Project Emissions Accounting
- Integrated Iron and Steel RTR (Proposed Rule)
- Auto and Light-Duty Trucks; Misc. Metal Parts; Plastic Parts; Large Appliances, Metal Furniture; and Fabric Printing RTR (Proposed Rule)
- Light Duty Greenhouse Gas Program Technical Amendments (Final Rule)

Packages at OMB for Review:

- Vehicle Test Procedure Adjustments for Tier 3 Test Fuel (Proposed Rule; RECEIVED DATE: 02/25/2019)
- Amendments Related to Marine Diesel Engine Emission Standards (Proposed Rule; RECEIVED DATE: 04/10/2019)
- Renewable Fuel Standard Program: Modification of Statutory Volume Targets / RFS Reset (Proposed Rule; RECEIVED DATE: 05/20/2019)
- Exceptional Events Guidance: Prescribed Fire on Wildland that May Influence Ozone and Particulate Matter Concentrations (Final Guidance; RECEIVED DATE: 05/20/2019)
- Federal Implementation Plan for Oil and Natural Gas Sources; Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation in Utah (Region 8 Proposed Rule; RECEIVED DATE: 05/23/2019)
- Guidance on Regional Haze State Implementation Plans for the Second Implementation Period (Final Guidance; RECEIVED DATE: 6/10/2019)
- Oil & Natural Gas Sector Emission Standards for new Reconstructed & Modified Sources Review (Proposed Rule: RECEIVED DATE: 6/10/2019)
- MSW Landfills Emission Guidelines Subpart Ba Requirements (Final Rule: RECEIVED DATE: 7/2/2019)
- Ethylene Production RTR (Proposed Rule: RECEIVED DATE 7/12/2019)

Packages Heading to OMB Soon

- Strat Ozone - Section 608 Refrigerant Management – Revisions (Final Rule)
- Organic Liquids Distribution (OLD) RTR (Proposed Rule)
- MON RTR (Proposed Rule)
- MATS Coal Refuse-Fired Units Review (Final Rule)

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

- Nothing to report.

Hot Topics

TSCA Chemical Risk Evaluations: 1-BP and MC - On August 9, OCSPP will release draft risk evaluations for 1-bromopropane (1-BP) and methylene chloride (MC), the fourth and fifth of the first ten chemicals undergoing risk evaluation under the amended Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). Upon publication of the Federal Register notice, the draft risk evaluations for the two chemicals will be available for public comment for 60 days. The draft risk evaluations will undergo peer review by the SACC as required under TSCA at a September 9-13, 2019 meeting.

Prop 65 Letter to Glyphosate Registrants – In early August, OCSPP will send letters to glyphosate registrants to provide information on labeling requirements for pesticide products containing glyphosate. In 2017, California listed glyphosate as a substance under Proposition 65, based on the International Agency for Research on Cancer's (IARC's) classification of the pesticide as "probably carcinogenic to humans." Given EPA's determination that glyphosate is "not likely to be carcinogenic to humans," EPA considers the Proposition 65 warning language for glyphosate to be a false and misleading statement and misbranding under FIFRA. For any pesticide product that currently contains Proposition 65 warning language exclusively on the basis that it contains glyphosate, EPA is requesting the submission of draft amended labeling that removes such language within 90 days of the date of the letter.

TRI Preliminary Data Released: On July 30, OCSPP published preliminary Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) data about chemical releases, waste management, and pollution prevention activities during 2018 at more than 20,000 federal and industrial facilities in the US. This week's release marks the first time the public will have access to 2018 data.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Proposal of TSCA Low-Priority Substances – The week of August 12, OCSPP will propose 20 chemicals as Low-Priority Substances under TSCA. To support a proposed priority designation, OCSPP considered reasonably available information for each chemical substance under its conditions of use against the criteria specified in TSCA section 6(b)(1)(A). A designation of "low-priority" means that risk evaluation is not warranted at this time. For each of the 20 chemical substances, OCSPP will make a docket available that contains the screening review and rationale for the proposed Low-Priority Substance designation. This proposal in the Federal Register will initiate a 90-day public comment period.

Technical Updates to Formaldehyde Requirements – OCSPP will soon issue a final rule to address technical issues raised by stakeholders with the December 12, 2016 Formaldehyde Emission Standards for Composite Wood Products final rule requirements. The rule amendments better align EPA's requirements with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) formaldehyde regulation, as intended by Congress, and clarify regulatory provisions, while maintaining the same human health protections for reducing exposures to formaldehyde.

Hot Topics

OCFO continues to work with OCIR, OGC, and the programs to prepare responses to the SAC, HAC, and HEC QFRs.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

- On August 1, OCFO is scheduled to brief the Acting Deputy Administrator and the Administrator about FY 2021 OMB Budget submission decisions. This includes the agency senior leaders' responses to the multi-year planning survey. After decisions are made, OCFO will issue policy and technical guidance to the agency to develop the materials for the FY 2021 OMB Submission due to OMB in early September.
- Also on August 1, OCFO is scheduled to brief the ADA on measurement options and recommendations for EPA's six FY 2020-2021 APGs, including two new cross-cutting APGs for lead and PFAS, followed by a briefing for the Administrator currently being scheduled. Based on decisions, we will work with programs to develop draft FY 2020-2021 APG Achievement Statements, including targets, due to OMB as part of the FY 2021 OMB Submission.
- In addition, OCFO has coordinated a meeting with the ADA on August 1 to discuss the approach to the FY 2021 OMB Evidence Submission agency guidance.
- OGC and OCFO are scheduled to brief the ADA on August 6 and then the Administrator on August 12 on an Anti-Deficiency Act issue.

Other

- OCFO is coordinating with OW to finalize a planned site visit for OMB to visit the Great Lakes to better understand the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative on August 5 through 8.
- EPA is on track to submit EPA FY 2019 Quarter 3 Agency Priority Goal Action Plan updates to OMB by August 9. OCFO received five of six NPM policy-approved quarterly updates for FY 2018-2019 APGs on July 24 (expect soon the remaining NPM-approved submission). All six APGs met third quarter targets, with five of six APGs on track to meet two-year results.
- Each AA and RA must submit his or her signed assurance letter to OCFO by August 16. These letters support the Administrator's statement of assurance due to the President and Congress.
- The Office of Public Affairs is currently reviewing the updated *FY 2018-2022 EPA Strategic Plan* that includes the revised strategic goal statements reflecting the Administrator's decisions as well as associated messaging changes. Next steps include an OMB courtesy review and issuance of the revised *Plan* on EPA's website. Revised goal statements will be included in the FY 2021 OMB Submission.

Hot Topics

Nothing to report this week.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Aug 5-8 - The National Conference of State Legislators will host their Annual Legislative Summit August 5-8 in Nashville, TN. The Natural Resources and Infrastructure Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Stephen Handy (UT) and Rep. Andrew McLean (ME), will meet August 7. NCSL will also host sessions on state efforts to reduce carbon emissions and address water quality.

Aug 7 - ORD will meet with the Region 3 and Kentucky State Environmental and Health Leadership at EPA's Cincinnati facility. This one-day visit will focus on discussions with the states on topics of most interest to them, including PFAS, source water and drinking water, advanced monitoring and sensors for stormwater and water pollutants, and resiliency, as well as a lab tour.

Aug 8 (tent.) – Notification on CWA 401 Certification rulemaking w/OW

Aug 13 - EPA's Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds and OIR will co-host a briefing for the Big 10 intergovernmental associations as well as State/local water professional groups on the forthcoming revisions to regulations governing the agency's exercise of authority under Clean Water Act (CWA) 404©.

Aug 14 – Sen. Baldwin (WI) staff call regarding water technology and innovation w/OW, ORD

Aug 14 - National Environmental Justice Public Teleconference Meeting

Aug 15 - EPA will hold a public hearing on the reclassification of major sources as area sources (MM2A) proposal at HQ. More information can be found at https://www.epa.gov/stationary-sources-air-pollution/forms/public-hearing-proposed-reclassification-major-sources-area.

Hot Topics

Jury Convicts Kansas Developer for Violating Asbestos Disposal Laws

On July 30, 2019, a jury in the District of Kansas found Thomas S. Fritzel guilty on charges of disposing of asbestos in violation of the Clean Air Act. Fritzel violated federal laws for handling asbestos during demolition and renovations at the Alvamar Country Club in Lawrence, Kansas. Fritzel knew that the roof of the country club contained 75 percent chrysotile asbestos. On October 19, 2016, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) told Fritzel to get a licensed asbestos contractor to remove asbestos from the site and dispose of it properly. On October 25, 2016, KDHE inspected the site and determined asbestos debris had been removed and hauled to Hamm Landfill in Perry, Kansas, which is not approved for asbestos disposal.

Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot Semiannual Meeting

On July 30, OECA participated in the former Nansemond Ordnance Depot semiannual Site Executive Committee meeting in Suffolk, Virgnia, along with other environmental cleanup program leaders from the EPA, Department of Defense Office of the Secretary of Defense, Army, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the City of Suffolk and the property owner to discuss expediting progress in the cleanup and redevelopment of this desirable property.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Nothing to report this week,

Hot Topics

NY v. Wheeler, No. 19-3287 (S.D.N.Y filed July 25, 2019). New Decision: The court found that EPA violated a mandatory duty under CAA section 126 to timely act on New York's petition seeking an EPA determination that more than 350 identified sources in 9 states emit air pollutants that significantly contribute to problems with attaining and maintaining the 2008 and 2015 ozone national ambient air quality standards in parts of New York. The court ordered EPA to take final action by September 13, 2019 as requested by plaintiffs.

Genscape v. EPA, No. 19-3705 (6th Cir. filed July 26, 2019). New Litigation: Genscape, Inc. (Genscape) filed a petition for review challenging EPA's final action that: (1) revoked Genscape's registration as an EPA approved Quality Assurance Plan (QAP) provider; (2) revoked its QAP-A Plan for the reason that it had proved inadequate in practice; (3) formally deemed all of its clients' RINs invalid; and (4) required it to retire 69,168,201 valid current or prior year RINs to replace the invalid A-RINs Genscape verified by July 30, 2019.

Environmental Defense Fund v. EPA, No. 19-2213 (D.D.C. filed July 26, 2019). New FOIA Litigation: Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) challenged EPA's withholding portions of four records pursuant to Exemption 5, Deliberative Process Privilege, in response to an August 1, 2017, FOIA request. EDF's request sought copies of correspondence related to a "red team/ blue team" review of climate science that were sent to or from 23 EPA employees.

New NOI: By letter dated July 25, 2019, EPA Region 9 received a Notice of Intent to Sue under the ESA and the NEPA from the Center of Biological Diversity (CBD). The CBD alleges that EPA Region 9 failed to consult under Section 7(a) of the ESA or to conduct an environmental review under NEPA prior to approving the Arroyo Grande aquifer exemption in California pursuant to EPA's Underground Injection Control (UIC) regulations.

New Petition: Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) has sent to EPA a petition dated July 8, 2019 seeking a rule prohibiting the use of hydrofluoric acid in oil refineries under TSCA section 6 and CAA section 112. The petition cites TSCA section 21, under which EPA has 90 days after the petition is filed to grant or deny the petition, as well as CAA section 112 and the APA.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Nothing to report this week.

Hot Topics

Industry Meeting on China Pesticides Registration – EPA (OECA, OCSPP and OITA) met with pesticide industry representatives on Good Laboratory Practices (GLP) compliance monitoring, including EPA's past work with China's Institute for the Control of Agrochemicals, Ministry of Agriculture (ICAMA) and challenges in mutual acceptance of data by regulatory agencies in other countries that are not part of the OECD Mutual Acceptance of Data system. At issue is a 2017 Chinese law that requires studies related to pesticide products to be registered in China be conducted in China. China is not an OECD member and without membership or a bilateral agreement, pesticide registrations based on established U.S. studies and test data are not reciprocally recognized by China. Industry representatives stated that the law is an impediment to pesticide exports to China and feel that EPA's past work with China's ICAMA had a positive influence on moving China towards improving GLP and would like to EPA to reengage with China.

OIG Meeting on U.S.-Mexico Border Program – OIG held a kick off meeting on the Border 2020 Program with OITA, Region 6 and 9 to discuss the objectives, process and time frames for the evaluation. The objective is to determine whether the Border 2020 Program management controls are sufficient, linked to the accomplishment of program objectives, and demonstrate progress towards achieving the program's environment and public health goals. Preliminary research will take three months and interviews with OITA, Region 6 and 9 will be conducted in August and September. OIG noted that it had completed an evaluation of the Border 2012 Program and this is a follow up on lesson learned to apply for the future since it is expected that the program will be continued.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

August 7 – OITA is meeting with the **U.S. Chamber of Commerce** to discuss recent high level international engagements like the G7, G20 and UN meetings and opportunities to collaborate on resource efficiency, marine litter and clean technology.

Hot Topics

Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR).

- CCR Phase 2 proposed rule (package 1) – The package was signed by the Administrator on July 29. We anticipate FR publication soon.
- CCR permitting NPRM – We anticipate submitting this soon to OP for OMB review.
- CCR litigation packages (package 2, parts A and B) – We anticipate these going to OMB soon.

Clean Air Act 112(r) Risk Management Program (RMP). We are working towards getting the rule package to OP for OMB review in early August.

Ongoing major Superfund NPL sites. We are working with Region 1 on Centredale, Region 2 on Woodbrook Road, Region 4 on Oak Ridge, Region 8 on Anaconda Smelter, and Region 10 on Portland Harbor and Quendell Terminal.

CERCLA 108(b) Financial Assurance (next three sectors). Industry 1 was published in the FR on July 29. The public comment period ends on September 27, 2019.

Aerosol Cans Final Rule. The rule package is with the workgroup for review. Workgroup Closure is expected on August 13.

PFAS

- PFOA and PFOS contaminated groundwater guidance. OLEM is developing potential options for next steps on the guidance in consideration of the public comments.
- Clarification received from the Administrator on the regulatory work to propose inclusion as "hazardous substances" under CERCLA.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

- **Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).** On August 5, Steven Cook and OLEM staff will meet with TCEQ in Austin regarding the development of Texas' CCR state permit program.

- **Blacks In Government Conference.** On August 6, Peter Wright and others in OLEM will participate in this conference in Dallas, TX.

- **Clean Water Act Hazardous Substances Spill Prevention (SPLASHs) Final Rule.** OMB determined the rule to be non-significant; as such, we are working on the signature package and getting materials ready for submittal to the docket. We anticipate the rule package moving to OP for signature in early August.

Hot Topics

Amazon Web Services (AWS) Cloud Significantly Enhances Envirofacts Performance

Envirofacts is now in the AWS cloud environment, resulting in significant performance improvements for EPA, Envirofacts partners and the public. Users are no longer limited to downloading only 10,000 facility records at a time. Data caching offered by AWS is helping contain EPA costs during the busiest summer months when UV index hits are in the millions. The Envirofacts team has better clarity into the daily usage avenues, including which reports are the most popular. Overall, Envirofacts partners are reporting better performance since the transition to the AWS cloud.

Contracting Officer's Representative Lab

The Office of Acquisition Solutions, Policy, Training, and Oversight Division (PTOD) conducted the fourth COR Lab on July 17, 2019, to a diverse audience of program contracting officer's representatives (COR). During the COR Lab, Jon Ross of the Office of Administration, Security Management Division, provided an overview of the system for onboarding contractor employees. Additionally, PTOD Branch Chiefs provided an overview of their respective branch's responsibilities and supplied key informational resources such as links to helpful and important intranet and web sites.

New Work Schedule and Telework policies

New Work Schedule and Telework policies entered the Directive Clearance Review process on July 26 with comments due by August 2nd. No extensions for review will be granted under the expedited five-day review period. Comments should be submitted by the Assistant Administrator, Regional Administrator, Associate Administrator, or their designee, along with the EPA Form 1315-17, Directives Clearance Record, and clearly marked whether the comments are "no comments", "advisory", or "issue resolution requested." Comments are due to the following points of contact: Work Schedules: hunt.loretta@epa.gov and henderson.kenneth@epa.gov; Telework: hunt.loretta@epa.gov and meneal.detha@epa.gov.

FedTalent Reporting

All mandatory training is due for completion by September 30. Contractors' local organization (Domain ID) was imported to FPPS. This allows organizations to track contractors' completions of mandatory training requirements and provides more complete mandatory training reporting for their organizations.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

OPM Human Capital Management Evaluation

OPM will conduct a HCME next week involving three areas under the HC Framework: strategic planning, performance culture and talent management. This evaluation will include interviews, document reviews and observations by OPM representatives.

Hot Topics

Local Foods, Local Places Assistance – On August 5, the Office of Community Revitalization will announce a technical assistance application opportunity for communities interested in revitalizing neighborhoods through development of local food systems, with highest consideration going to communities in Opportunity Zones.

Risk Assessment Course – On August 6, 8, and 13, NCEE and OSCPP will host Dr. George Gray, Professor at George Washington University's Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, for three 3-hour sessions covering risk assessment essentials for EPA and DOJ staff in Washington, D.C.

Community-Driven Solutions and Opportunity Zones – On August 8, OP senior leadership will attend the EJCRC Community-Driven Solutions (CDS) Committee meeting to discuss the EMC's goals for integrating Opportunity Zones into the Agency's CDS work.

America's Children and the Environment Indicators – In August, OP and OCHP expect to post online an update of key indicators on environmental conditions that can affect children's health.

Active Interagency Reviews from OMB	
Subject	**OMB Due Date**
HUD NPRM: Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards	08/02/2019
DOE/OEM IFRM: Elemental Mercury Storage Fees	08/05/2019
DoD/ACE NPRM (Pass-back): Natural Disaster Procedures: Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Activities of the Corps of Engineers	N/A

Documents Sent to OFR From July 25 – August 1, 2019		
FRL #	**Title**	**Date Sent to FR**
9997-66-Region 9	Partial approval, partial disapproval and limited approval, limited disapproval of Arizona Air Plan Revisions, Pinal County Air Quality Control District	08-01-2019
9996-44-OCSPP	Autographa Californica Multiple Nucleopolyhedrovirus Strain FV#11; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance	07-31-2019
9996-75-OCSPP	Pesticide Product Registration; Receipt of Application for New	07-31-2019

	Active Ingredient	
9997-65-Region 2	National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan National Priorities List: Deletion of the Ellenville Scrap Iron and Metal Superfund Site	07-31-2019
9997-26-OCSPP	Interim Registration Review Decisions and Case Closures for Several Pesticides; Notice of Availability	07-31-2019
9997-42-OW	Withdrawal of Certain Federal Water Quality Criteria Applicable to Washington	07-31-2019
9997-64-Region 2	National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan; National Priorities List: Deletion of the Ellenville Scrap Iron and Metal Superfund Site	07-31-2019
9988-54-OCSPP	Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed New Collections; Comment Request; TSCA Existing Chemical Risk Evaluation and Management; Generic ICR for Interviews and Focus Groups (EPA ICR No. 2584.01) and Generic ICR for Surveys (EPA ICR No. 2585.01)	07-30-2019
9996-30-OMS	Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records: OCEAN	07-30-2019
9996-32-OMS	Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records: PRPIS	07-30-2019
9996-62-OCSPP	Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (19-2.F)	07-30-2019
9997-55-Region 1	Program Requirement Revisions related to the Public Water System Supervision Programs for the State of Connecticut and the State of New Hampshire	07-30-2019
9997-67-Region 9	Air Plan Approval; California; Ventura County Air Pollution Control District	07-30-2019
9996-78-OCSPP	Receipt of a Pesticide Petition Filed for Residues of Pesticide Chemicals in or on Various Commodities	07-29-2019
9997-07-Region 8	Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Montana; Incorporation by Reference Updates	07-29-2019
9997-68-Region	Approval and Promulgation of Air	07-29-2019

3	Quality Implementation Plans; Delaware; Removal of Unnecessary Electric Arc Furnace Regulation and References to the Electric Arc Furnace Regulation	
9997-70-Region 3	Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Source-Specific Reasonably Available Control Technology Determinations for 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard	07-29-2019
9996-79-OCSPP	Fluoxastrobin; Pesticide Tolerances	07-26-2019
9997-36-Region 5	Air Plan Approval; Wisconsin; Title V Operation Permit Program	07-26-2019
9997-17-OCSPP	Registration Review Proposed Interim Decisions for Several Pesticides; Notice of Availability	07-26-2019
9997-56-OAR	Proposed Determinations of Light-duty Vehicle Alternative Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards for Small Volume Manufacturers	07-26-2019
9997-62-OAR	Reclassification of Major Sources as Area Sources Under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act	07-26-2019
9997-35-Region 1	Air Quality Designation; New Hampshire; Redesignation of the Central New Hampshire Sulfur Dioxide Nonattainment Area	07-26-2019
9997-34-Region 5	Air Plan Approval; Wisconsin; Title V Operation Permit Program	07-26-2019
9997-61-Region 9	National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan; National Priorities List: Deletion of the Intel Corp. (Santa Clara III) Superfund Site	07-26-2019
9997-69-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; Part 1	07-26-2019
9996-93-Region 6	Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Oklahoma	07-25-2019
9996-99-Region 1	Air Plan Approval; Maine; Reasonably Available Control Technology for the 2008 Ozone	07-25-2019

	Standard	
9996-87-OMS	NESHAP for Mineral Wool Production (Renewal)/ICR 1799.10	07-25-2019
9996-88-OMS	NESHAP for Halogenated Solvent Cleaners/Halogenated Hazardous Air Pollutants (Renewal)/ICR 1652.10	07-25-2019
9997-47-Region 5	National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan; NPL: Partial Deletion of the South Minneapolis Residential Soil Contamination Superfund Site	07-25-2019
9997-54-Region 5	Direct Final Rule: National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan; National Priorities List: Deletion of the Buckeye Reclamation Superfund Site	07-25-2019
9997-52-Region 5	DFR:National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan; NCP: National Priorities List: Deletion of the Duell & Gardner Landfill Site	07-25-2019
9997-38-Region 4	Air Plan Approval; TN; Updates to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Chattanooga	07-25-2019
9997-40-Region 4	Air Plan Approval; Kentucky; Interstate Transport (Prongs 1 and 2) for the 2010 1-Hour NO2 Standard	07-25-2019
9997-37-OMS	NESHAP for Magnetic Tape Manufacturing Operations (Renewal)/ICR 1678.10	07-25-2019
9997-39-OMS	NESHAP for Oil and Natural Gas Production (Renewal)/ICR 1788.12	07-25-2019
9997-13-Region 1	Air Plan Approval; Vermont; Reasonably Available Control Technology for the 2008 and 2015 Ozone Standards	07-25-2019
9997-46-Region 5	National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan; NPL: Partial Deletion of the South Minneapolis Residential Soil Contamination Superfund Site	07-25-2019
9997-48-Region 5	National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan;National Priorities List: Deletion of the Duell & Gardner Landfill Superfund Site	07-25-2019
9997-53-Region 5	National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency	07-25-2019

	Plan;National Priorities List: Deletion of the Buckeye Reclamation Superfund Site	
9997-60-Region 9	Partial Approval, Partial Disapproval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; California; Control of Emissions from Existing Municipal Solid Waste Landfills	07-25-2019

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Nothing to report this week.

Hot Topics

Ricin Incident at California Prison: ORD Providing Technical Support to OLEM/OEM/CMAD and Region 9

EPA and CDC are providing technical assistance to California in support of the response and clean-up to a ricin incident at Pelican Bay State Prison outside of Crescent City, Del Norte County, CA. ORD's Homeland Security researchers have been providing technical advice to OLEM/OEM/CMAD in support of Region 9's support to the state of California. The researchers have provided potential disposal facilities (haz waste incinerators and haz waste landfills) in Regions 9 and 10 using ORD's I-WASTE decision support tool. Information on decontamination options was also provided, based upon ORD homeland security research studies. Further, ORD has also worked together with CMAD over the years to address sampling and analysis research gaps related to past ricin incidents, including overcoming interferences in environmental sample analysis.

New Science to Achieve Results (STAR) Funding Opportunity

ORD announced a new STAR funding opportunity titled Contaminated Sites, Natural Disasters, Changing Environmental Conditions and Vulnerable Communities: Research to Build Resilience. The RFA opened for applications on July 29, 2019 and will remain open through September 17, 2019.

Support for the Ogallala Groundwater Superfund Site

This week, ORD experts and staff from the U.S. Geological Survey met to discuss ongoing isotopic analytical support and conceptual site model development for the Ogallala Groundwater Superfund site in Ogallala, NE.

Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) between ORD and Dow Chemical Company for air sampling.

The CRADA is to test the ability of sensors mounted on an unmanned aircraft system (UAS) to determine emission factors from industrial boiler stacks. Dow pilots flew their multicopter UAS with an ORD developed sensor system (the "Kolibri") in two campaigns at Dow facilities in Midland, Michigan and St. Charles, Louisiana. The sensors measured both NO and NO_2 with concurrent measurements of CO and CO_2. This allowed researchers to calculate an emission factor, or the mass of total NOx per amount of fuel burned. Simultaneous continuous emission monitoring data and extractive sampling compared the methods' emission factor values. Development of this method may prove useful in determining emissions from sources that are hard to sample and that pose safety risks to personnel.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Meeting with Region 3 State Environmental and Health Leaders

Next week, ORD will meet with the Kentucky and Region 3 state environmental and health leaders at EPA's Cincinnati facility. Discussions will focus on topics of most interest to the states, including PFAS, source water and drinking water, advanced monitoring and sensors for stormwater and water pollutants, and resiliency, as well as a lab tour. The objective of this meeting is to determine how EPA can better assist and collaborate with Region 3 states in addressing their science and technical needs and discuss priorities needing further research. Doug Benevento, Senior Counselor for Regional Management and State Affairs, Liz Resek from the Office of Water, and Region 3 acting DRA Diana Esher will also participate in the meeting.

Supporting Oregon Salmon Recovery
On August 8, 2019, ORD scientists will meet with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the non-governmental organization The Freshwater Trust (TFT) to discuss ways that they can apply the Visualizing Ecosystem Land Management Assessments (VELMA) tool to their coastal Oregon salmon recovery efforts. EPA and TFT met recently to discuss and areas where each could complement research work of the other. This meeting objective is to have the groups identify shared interests and collaborative opportunities for restoring Coast Range watershed function and services, initially emphasizing restoration of upland, riparian and in-stream habitats critical to recovery of threatened salmonid populations.

Hot Topics

Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Water Quality Certification Rule Proposal

As early as next week, OW anticipates moving forward for Administrator's signature on the proposed rule updating the CWA Section 401 water quality certification regulations. This proposed rule provides updates and clarifications to the substantive and procedural requirements for water quality certification under CWA section 401. It is intended to increase the timeliness and predictability of section 401 certification by clarifying timeframes for certification, the scope of certification review and conditions, and related certification requirements and procedures. Executive Order 13868 directed the EPA to propose an updated rule on Section 401 by August 8. The proposed rule will be announced through a press release and also at the National Association of Manufacturers 2019 CMA Summer Leadership Conference.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Nutrient Sensor Action Challenge Announcement

Next week, the EPA will issue a press release announcing the three winners of the Nutrient Sensor Action Challenge, awarded $50,000 each. This is one of a series of challenges focused on nutrients conducted as part of multi-year collaboration between the EPA, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS).