Region 1
Hot Topics:

Connecticut and Rhode Island Experience Ozone Exceedances
On June 26, 27, 28, and 29 air quality monitors in Connecticut exceeded the 2015 8-hour Ozone NAAQS of 0.070 ppm. The highest readings occurred on June 29 at 0.084 ppm at Madison Beach and 0.079 ppm at Groton. The State of Rhode Island also had an exceedance, with the Narragansett monitor recording an 8-hour high of 0.073 ppm on June 29.

Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation – Eligibility Determination for Treatment as a State (TAS) 105
On July 1 Region 1 sent an approval letter to the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe informing them they are now eligible to obtain grant funds with a reduced match requirement under Section 105 of the Clean Air Act.

Town of Stafford Receives Assessment Grant
On July 2, Region 1 staff participated in a big check presentation to celebrate the new $300,000 assessment grant to be awarded to the Town of Stafford, Connecticut. The event was hosted by Congressman Joe Courtney and took place in the Town Hall chambers. This grant will be the first for the Town of Stafford.

Regional Staff Participate in Upcoming Economic Development Resource Meeting
On July 19, Regional staff will participate in an economic development resource meeting for the North Quabbin (MA) area sponsored by Congressman Jim McGovern. The event will be held in Petersham, Massachusetts and will include municipal leaders from the Towns of Athol, Erving, New Salem, Orange, Petersham, Phillipston, Warwick, and Wendell who are interested in federal funding opportunities to benefit their communities. Brownfields staff will provide a Brownfields 101 presentation and highlight recent program changes arising from the BUILD Act of 2018.

Region 1 Issues Order to Town of Montague, MA
On July 1, Region 1 issued an Administrative Compliance Order requiring the Town of Montague to develop a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan. The Town must also apply for authorization under the Multi-Sector General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Industrial Activity for its Water Pollution Control Facility.

Region 1 Files Clean Water Act (CWA) Expedited Settlement Agreement with Russo Bros. Inc.
On June 26, Region 1 filed a CWA Expedited Settlement Agreement with Russo Bros. Inc., the site contractor at a property in Bellingham, Massachusetts that is being developed into small residential condominiums. Based on a site inspection, Region 1 determined that Russo Bros. Inc. had failed to meet sediment control requirements at the site, in violation of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Discharges from Construction Activities. Russo Bros. Inc. addressed its noncompliance following the Region 1 inspection.

Region 1 Assists Region 3 Dive Team with Seagrass Sampling
On June 26-28 Region 1 Dive Team joined Region 3 Dive Team in Delaware River to assist with seagrass sampling. Region 3 requested participation due to Region 1's extensive dive and seagrass expertise. The event was a great cross-training opportunity and provided for an exchange of ideas and techniques between the two regions.

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Region 2
Hot Topics:

Limetree Bay Terminal and Limetree Bay Refining, U.S. VI: The draft PAL permit was sent to OGC and OAQPS on 6/25 for review and comments. Region 2 extended until COB 7/8 to receive comments from headquarters. Region 2 will close-out internal review on 7/9 to finalize the draft permit and prepare a package for public review. LBT's EJ analysis is still undergoing review. While some information provided thus far seems acceptable for the EJ modeling analysis, there were important items missing from the submittal. Region 2 asked for the additional information by 7/1. The consultant indicated he could provide this by 7/4-5. Region 2 will continue with the review and should be able to make a recommendation on the EJ analysis by the end of next week.

Anguilla Landfill Fire, St. Croix, U.S. VI: On 6/30, Region 2 received a request for air monitoring and sampling support from the USVI Department of Planning and Natural Resources (VIDPNR) for a fire burning at the Anguilla Landfill on St. Croix. The fire at the landfill has been burning for the past week. The landfill is believed to contain metals, tires, used oil, hurricane debris, and construction debris. Local officials are concerned about air quality and impacts to down-wind communities and nearby airport operations. Region 2 has dispatched an OSC who is expected to arrive on 7/1 to coordinate federal response activities. EPA 's Weston Superfund Technical Assistance & Response Team (START) technical contractor is mobilizing personnel and equipment to the site and will begin air monitoring operations on 7/2. ERT is on standby to provide additional scientific and technical support as needed. The OSC is meeting with local responders to devise a plan for air and water monitoring/sampling. The REOC is coordinating all activities in connection with this response. Media interest has been high.

NJ Interagency Electric Vehicle Partnership: The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, NJDEP and the New Jersey Economic Development Authority created the "Partnership to Plug-In," which will build the necessary infrastructure to support the goal of registering 330,000 Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs) by 2025.

Port Authority of NY/NJ Bus Terminal, Manhattan, NY: Region 2 completed the pre-NEPA review of the Port Authority Bus Terminal scoping document. Region 2 has concerns about air quality modeling and transportation conformity. We also added examples of "green building" techniques and environmental management tools. Region 2 requested to meet with the Port Authority to discuss EPA tools and the possibility of working together to ensure the proposed building will be as sustainable as possible. Federal Transit Authority also agreed to work with EPA on this effort.

Inspection of Chemours' Chambers Works Facility Deepwater, NJ: On 7/8 Region 2 will conduct a Clean Water Act (CWA) and TSCA inspection of Chemours' "Chambers Works" facility in Deepwater, NJ. OECA will lead the week-long inspection. NJDEP will participate in part of the inspection. The CWA inspection will be limited to PFAS compounds, including GenX. The TSCA inspection will focus on PFAS – but will cover compliance across the statute.

Newark, NJ Drinking Water Sample Analysis Update: Next week contractor CDM will collect samples with the filters in place from the three homes in Newark with elevated lead levels to ensure the filters are effectively removing lead from the water. Region 2 will analyze the samples. The three homes are part of CDM and Newark's study to monitor the effectiveness of orthophosphate as corrosion control treatment. The next round of sequential sampling at the three homes is tentatively scheduled for the end of July.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

Congressional District Superfund Tours in NY and NJ: Region 2 is engaged in ongoing communication with U.S. Reps. Mikie Sherrill (NJ) and Kathleen Rice (NY) to plan and execute tours of Superfund sites in their districts.

Region 3
Hot Topics:

PADEP Denial of Erie Coke facility (PA) Title V Operating Permit
On July 1st, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) denied Erie Coke's application to renew its Title V operating permit and has filed a complaint seeking to shut down the coke production facility following years of numerous environmental violations. At the request of PADEP in April, Region 3 conducted a multi-media inspection of the facility covering CWA NPDES and Stormwater, RCRA Hazardous Waste, SPCC and EPCRA. Environmental concerns were observed on CWA Stormwater, RCRA hazardous waste and SPCC. This inspection report is in development, and Region 3 will continue to be in contact with (PADEP) during this process. The plant employees approximately 125 people in Erie, PA.

Philadelphia Energy Solutions Refinery Fire Response and Closure
Philadelphia Energy Solutions reported that it is closing after a fire destroyed one of its units on the morning of June 21. At the request of the Philadelphia Air Management Service, EPA's emergency removal program has been conducting air monitoring on the possible release of hydrogen flouride. As of July 2nd, no samples exhibit air contaminant levels at higher than background levels. EPA will continue to work with Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) on an ongoing RCRA corrective action investigation at the site that is not expected to be impacted by the fire. The 150 year-old complex is the largest refinery in the Northeast, covering 1300 acres on both sides of the Schuylkill River. The refinery closure is reported to result in the direct loss of more than 1,000 jobs. The fire and subsequent closing announcement have received extensive local and national media coverage with exceptionally thorough and detailed coverage provided by the Philadelphia Inquirer and WHYY.

Region 3 Reviewing Draft Permit for New Natural Gas-Fired Power Plant in Pennsylvania
ESC Tioga County Power, LLC has proposed to a build a new 635 MW natural gas-fired combined cycle power plant in Richmond Township, northcentral Pennsylvania. The proposed facility will emit pollutants at greater than the major source threshold, and therefore must undergo permitting under the Clean Air Act's Non-Attainment New Source Review and Prevention of Significant Deterioration requirements. Region 3 is reviewing the permit to ensure it meets all state and federal requirements. The draft permit is expected to be published for public comment by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection in early July 2019. ESC Tioga anticipates commercial power production by the fourth quarter of 2022.

Agricultural Project Funding Collaboration
On June 25, representatives from Region 3 led an introductory meeting of representatives from several federal, state and local programs that fund agricultural projects in Lancaster County, PA. The purpose of the meeting was to: (1) familiarize each other with our respective funding programs, (2) identify ways to better collaborate and leverage our respective resources, and (3) explore opportunities to enhance our efforts in addressing the water quality needs in Lancaster County under the Chesapeake Bay Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan. In addition to Region 3 representatives, the funding agencies present included PENNVEST, PADEP, Lancaster Economic Development Council, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, USDA-National Resources Conservation Services, Lancaster County Conservation District, Lancaster Farmland Trust, Red Barn Consulting, Turkey Hill, and the Lancaster Clean Water Partnership (location host).

DC Holds a 2nd Public Comment Period on Proposed WQS Revisions
On June 28, as part of their 2016 Water Quality Standards(WQS) triennial review, DC Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) will publish revised water quality criteria for 94 human health pollutants, ammonia and cadmium for a 30-day public comment period. Section 303(c)(1) of the Clean Water Act requires each state to review its WQS and hold a public hearing every three years and, as appropriate, to modify and adopt the WQS revisions subject to review and approval by EPA. These revisions align with EPA's recommended criteria. Because DOEE removed previously proposed *E. coli* revisions from this second public comment period due to DC Water's and Earthjustice's opposition, DOEE anticipates few public comments and the expedient adoption of the remaining proposed revisions.

Green Street, Green Jobs, Green Towns (G3) Will Announce Grants
On July 2, EPA and the Chesapeake Bay Trust will announce the next round (ninth) of G3 grants. There will be 20 recipients sharing $965,972 in grant funding to design, implement and/or construct green infrastructure practices. The Borough of Marietta, Pennsylvania, is a recipient of the G3 grant. The event will be held at the Marietta Boat Club overlooking an area where engineered designs for green infrastructure practices will be created with this year's funding.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

Regional Administrator Cosmo Servidio has the following events and meetings scheduled:

July 9 Philadelphia Opportunity Zone Roundtable with Scott Turner, Executive Director, White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council, Philadelphia, PA

July 12 US Army Corps of Engineers Change of Command Ceremony, Philadelphia, PA

Region 4
Hot Topics:

Mississippi Phosphates Corporation Site (Pascagoula, MS)
Key Message: On June 28th, the contract for the Phase 1-A Cover Installation was awarded. Initial delivery of cover material is expected 8 to 12 weeks after contract award. Phase 1A subgrade preparation is on schedule and should be ready for installation of the cover system (liner/turf) when delivered to site.

Jefferson County, KY SO_2 Attainment Plan
Key Message: The final approval of the Jefferson County, KY SO_2 Attainment Plan was published in the Federal Register on June 28, 2019.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

Superfund Redevelopment Initiative Anniversary Press Event – On July 31st, the Region 4 Administrator will hold a press amplification event regarding the anniversary of the Superfund Redevelopment Initiative. The event will be held at the Cecil Field Superfund site in Jacksonville, FL. Jacksonville, FL. Open Press.

Upcoming Major Decisions
The partial approval for the Georgia CCR State Permit Program was published in the Federal Register on June 28, 2019, which commenced a 60-day public comment period closing on August 27, 2019. The Administrator signed a Completeness Determination Letter on June 19, 2019, which started the clock on the 180-day statutory clock for EPA to make its final determination.

Paducah Formal Dispute Resolution for the C-400 Removal Notification SEC level dispute – July 12, 2019.

Paducah Formal Dispute Resolution for the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis SEC level dispute – July 12, 2019.

Region 5
Hot Topics:

Region 5 responds to train derailment, sulfuric acid spill at U.S.-Canadian border
Key Message: Region 5, along with other federal, state and local agencies, is responding to a train derailment that spilled thousands of gallons of sulfuric acid in a tunnel on the U.S.-Canadian border.

In the early morning on Friday, June 28, 2019 a Canadian National Railroad train derailed in the St. Clair Tunnel under the St. Clair River on the U.S.-Canadian border. The train has 140 cars, and an estimated 50 of those cars derailed. Hazardous materials released inside the tunnel include sulfuric acid and diesel fuel. An assessment confirmed that the sulfuric acid car was breached, emptied its contents, and remains deep in the tunnel. Most of the sulfuric acid was contained within the tunnel sump area and is being pumped out and staged in totes/tanks outside the tunnel entrance. Derailed cars are being removed from the tunnel at a slow and careful pace. There are no reports of a release to the river.

Canada is currently the lead in supervising the transportation related efforts at the site. EPA is leading the environmental efforts with the State of Michigan and in close communication with Environment Canada as well as several local entities, including City of Port Huron and St. Clair County. EPA is conducting air monitoring at eight locations around the site perimeter and has not observed levels above site action levels at these locations to date. EPA continues to monitor this situation and has provided air dispersion models to the response teams.

Region 5 adopts OIG recommendations at Amphenol site, Franklin, Ind.
Key Message: Region 5 has implemented the recommendations made by the Office of Inspector General in their June 27 management alert.

As part of their investigation into the effectiveness of risk communications at OLEM sites, OIG recommended that Region 5 update the Cleanups in My Community website and any other relevant websites to correct the status of health and groundwater migration milestones for the Amphenol site.

Region 5 has written an op-ed from RA Stepp about the agency's ongoing committed to keeping the community informed. The draft op-ed is currently being reviewed in HQ.

Elevated Lead Levels in University Park, Ill., Drinking Water
Key Message: A "Do Not Consume" advisory remains in effect in University Park. Illinois EPA and Region 5 have developed criteria to lift the advisory in some areas of the city after testing residences for lead-containing solder.

On Jan. 1, 2018, Aqua Illinois, drinking water servicer for University Park, switched its water source from ground water to surface water. Region 5 learned from Illinois EPA on June 17, 2019, of elevated lead levels at 15 homes (results ranging from 23 ppb to 800 ppb) in the University Park community.

EPA remains in close contact with Illinois EPA as the state works with the water utility to monitor lead levels, adjust treatment and ensure that affected customers have access to safe drinking water. The operator has done some preliminary work which seems to indicate the water chemistry is particularly corrosive toward lead-containing solder.

Michigan moves forward on PFAS in drinking water rules
Key Message: On June 27, Michigan released health-based values that will be used to develop regulatory drinking water standards for PFAS by April 2020.

A state workgroup reviewed the current science on PFAS and human health and identified health-based values for seven PFAS. As part of the required rule promulgation process, EGLE will host public hearings and accept public comments on the proposed standards. The final rule is expected to be adopted by April 2020.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

Rep. Schneider to hold meeting about Lake County, Ill., EtO emission on Wednesday, July 3
Key Message: Region 5 will not be able to participate in the congressman's meeting, but is in regular communication with Illinois EPA and local agencies.

On June 27, Rep. Brad Schneider (IL-10) invited EPA to participate in a meeting with Medline and Lake County, Ill., officials to discuss ethylene oxide. He also invited local elected officials, the Lake Co. Public Health Department, and representatives from Illinois EPA. After consulting with OCIR, Region 5 determined that appropriate staff would not be available to participate in the meeting.

Region 6

Hot Topics:

Mosaic Fertilizer LLC, St. James, Louisiana

Mosaic is evaluating all options for onsite or offsite disposal to reduce total process wastewater inventory and maintain adequate freeboard and surge capacity. To that end, Mosaic continues to pursue use of aeration towers as a primary method for reducing water inventory and has submitted an air permit variance request to LDEQ. EPA has prepared technical comments on this request for transmittal to LDEQ the week of July 1.

Texas SSM SIP Withdrawal, Texas

On June 28, the comment period for Texas Startup, Shutdown, and Malfunction (SSM) SIP proposal closed. EPA received 21 comments letters. Industry and TCEQ generally supported the proposed action, while citizen groups, Harris County Judge, and the Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner submitted adverse comments.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

Texas Public Notice Provisions for Air Permits, Texas

By July 8, EPA will propose final approval of revisions to Texas Public Notice provisions submitted in 2018. The revisions consolidate the public notice requirements for certain air quality permit applications and are consistent with federal requirements. No comments were received on the proposed rule.

Albuquerque 1st Set of Air Permit SIP Revisions, New Mexico

By July 10, EPA anticipates final approval of the first set of revisions to Albuquerque Air Permit SIP to remove conditional approval and convert conditionally approved air permit rules to full approval based on revision of rules.

Texas Title V Petition Resolution Letter, Texas

By July 12, EPA will respond to the state's June 2018 letter and subsequent discussions on how to resolve long-term EPA objections to Texas Title V air permits. OGC has provided a revised draft letter to Deputy AA of OAR on acceptability of draft response.

Houston/Galveston/Brazoria 2008 Ozone Attainment, Texas

By July 26, decision by HQ to finalize action to reclassify the HGB area from moderate to serious under the 2008 ozone NAAQS. TCEQ provided comments and 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.

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DFW 2008 Ozone Attainment Demonstration Plan, Texas

By July 26, decision by HQ to finalize 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.

July 10	Executive Management Council Meeting, Washington, DC
July 10	ECOS STEP Meeting, Washington, DC
July 10	National Awards Ceremony, Washington, DC
July 16	Society of Texas Environmental Professionals, Grapevine, Texas
July 17	Regional Tribal Operations Committee, Albuquerque, New Mexico
July 19	IOGCC Task Force Meeting, Denver, Colorado

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Region 7

Hot Topics:

Nothing to report.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

During the week of July 8th, Regional Administrator Jim Gulliford and Deputy Regional Administrator Ed Chu will be attending the Senior Leadership Council and the National Awards Ceremony in Washington D.C.

On July 9th, Donna Vizian, Vaughn Noga, and Wesley Carpenter of OMS will be visiting Region 7 to complete an IT portfolio review. While in Region 7, OMS leadership will also participate in a townhall with Region 7 staff.

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Region 8

Hot Topics:

Denver Water publicly announced its Corrosion Control Variance Request.

On July 1, Denver Water announced its lead education and outreach program connected with its pending submittal to EPA of a variance request from the Optimal Corrosion Control Treatment designation. Denver Water will initiate their pilot filter program for approximately 300 customers next week. This pilot will inform the residential filter aspect of their lead reduction/variance program. Region 8 and Office of Groundwater and Drinking Water are hosting a call with Clean Water Action, NRDC and EDF on July 2 to discuss the proposed variance, process for obtaining public comment, time frame for EPA to act on the variance and solicit any initial feedback on the approach.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

Drilling of well into American Tunnel, Bonita Peak Mining District NPL Site During the week of July 8, EPA will begin drilling a well/piezometer into the American Tunnel to gather information on the regional hydrogeologic regime affecting the BPMD NPL Site. Sunnyside Gold Corporation was ordered to complete this activity in a Unilateral Administrative Order (UAO) issued in 2018, but did not accomplish this action. EPA decided to undertake this important work because the agency can more quickly and efficiently accomplish the objective of assessing the conditions of the American Tunnel using an existing well pad that will require less ground disturbance and less potential impacts to cultural resources than Sunnyside's planned drilling location. Consultation with OLEM regarding the fluid hazards associated with this well will conclude on July 3.

Consultation with Ute Tribe Regarding Enforcement Action on Tribal Drinking Water Systems R8 will consult with Ute Tribal Leadership on July 11 regarding noncompliance and potential enforcement actions regarding the Uriah Heeps and White Rocks tribal drinking water systems. The Tribe met with OITA, OECA, OW and Region 8 leadership on May 29, 2019 to discuss concerns about EPA taking enforcement actions to address long-standing noncompliance at the two drinking water systems. There are approximately 20 violations of the SDWA associated with these two tribal drinking water systems, including violations of the Lead and Copper Rule. In 2018, R8 and the Tribe settled a separate SDWA administrative enforcement action relating to these systems, but SDWA noncompliance has continued since the settlement. Region 8 will continue to provide compliance assistance even if we proceed with formal enforcement.

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Region 9

Hot Topics/ Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

Hawaii Lead (Pb) Site: we've begun a CERCLA removal to address high levels of lead in a Honolulu neighborhood's soils. Contamination resulted from lead smelting by small businesses making lead weights for fishing. The Hawaii Dept. of Health documented elevated blood lead levels in children from this underserved neighborhood. Our removal site evaluation confirmed high concentrations of lead in soil where exposure was most likely to occur.

Hawaii CWA Consent Decree: the court entered our Clean Water Act consent decree with Waste Management Hawaii and the State of Hawaii, to address the 2010/2011 storm event which scoured the landfill and deposited medical waste, trash and leachate on Honolulu beaches. Waste Management earlier pled guilty in 2015 to criminal negligence. This civil consent decree includes a $425K penalty and injunctive relief to retrofit needed stormwater controls. The State will receive half the penalty and fund coral reef and habitat restoration.

HQ and Congressional engagement: next week, Regional Administrator Mike Stoker and Charles Munoz will meet with various HQ colleagues, and with Nevada and California Congressional representatives including Rep. Peters, Amodei, Horsford and Lee.

SDWA enforcement: we'll public-notice our consent order with the U. S. Forest Service for their operation of 15 banned large-capacity cesspools in Arizona, and issue an administrative complaint to the Hopi Tribe for violating our 2016 administrative consent order with the tribe requiring treatment of arsenic-contaminated drinking water at the Hopi Cultural Center. We recently met with the tribal chairman and discussed this with him in person.

Region 10
Hot Topics:

None to report.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

Region 10 Participates in Tacoma, WA Park Ribbon Cutting Event at Former Smelter Site: Region 10 staff and managers will speak at a ribbon cutting ceremony on July 6th hosted by the Tacoma Parks Department. The park was constructed over slag from the former Asarco smelter Superfund Site. The EPA partnered with the Parks District to remediate the slag peninsula and redevelop it into public open space. EPA provided the design and oversight of the capping of the slag and funded the remedial work. Metro Parks constructed the park over the cap and made improvements to the Tacoma Yacht Club, which leases part of the site. VIPs at the event will include the Mayor of Tacoma, state legislators, congressional staff and other local and regional leaders.

PCB spill - City of Seattle right-of-way: The City of Seattle notified EPA of a spill of PCBs in south Seattle. Initial sampling documented concentrations of PCBs in soil of more than 40,000 ppm, with lower but still significant levels found in a nearby storm sewer. Subsequent investigation indicates that it is likely that PCBs have traveled to the Duwamish diagonal sewer and entered the Lower Duwamish Waterway, although no confirmation sampling has been conducted of potentially affected sediments in the waterway. The city is conducting additional soil sampling to better characterize the nature and extent of the spill. No specific source of the PCBs have been identified. The city has completed emergency response actions that include covering the affected area of soils and installation of a filter sock in the catch basin. Region 10 staff are providing oversight and a written approval for this work under the region's TSCA/PCB program, and will be coordinating with Washington State Department of Ecology and EPA's Superfund program.

Office of Air and Radiation

Hot Topics:

Packages for Signature:

- Municipal Solid Waste Landfills RTR (Proposed Rule)
- Revision of Part 1 Registration Form Process for New and Modified True Minor Oil and Gas Sources in Indian Country

Packages at OMB for Review:

- Vehicle Test Procedure Adjustments for Tier 3 Test Fuel (Proposed Rule; RECEIVED DATE: 02/25/2019)
- Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) and Nonattainment New Source Review (NSR): Project Emissions Accounting (Proposed Rule; RECEIVED DATE: 03/21/2019)
- 2020 Ozone Depleting Substances Phaseout Rule (Proposed Rule; RECEIVED DATE: 03/29/2019)
- Amendments Related to Marine Diesel Engine Emission Standards (Proposed Rule; RECEIVED DATE: 04/10/2019)
- RFS: Standards for 2020 and Biomass-Based Diesel Volume for 2021, Response to the Remand of the 2016 Standards, and Other Changes (Proposed Rule; RECEIVED DATE: 05/06/2019)
- Renewable Fuel Standard Program: Modification of Statutory Volume Targets / RFS Reset (Proposed Rule; RECEIVED DATE: 05/20/2019)
- Integrated Iron and Steel RTR (Proposed Rule; RECEIVED DATE: 05/30/2019)
- 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)

Packages Heading to OMB Soon

- Light Duty Greenhouse Gas Program Technical Amendments (Final Rule)
- Strat Ozone - Section 608 Refrigerant Management – Revisions (Final Rule)
- MSW Landfills Emission Guidelines Subpart Ba Requirements (Final Rule)
- Ethylene Production RTR (subparts XX & YY) (Proposed Rule)
- MATS Coal Refuse-Fired Units Review (Final Rule)
- Organic Liquids Distribution (OLD) RTR (Proposed Rule)
- MON RTR (Proposed Rule)

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

None.

Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention

Hot Topics:

Working TSCA Risk Evaluation Schedule (subject to modification)

Chemical	Intra /Interagency Review Begins	Interagency Review Ends
PV29	Oct 2018 *Completed*	Oct 2018 *Completed*
1,4-dioxane	May 29 *Completed*	June 12 *Completed*
HBCD	June 5 *Completed*	June 19 *Completed*
1-BP	June 7 *Completed*	June 12 *Completed*
NMP	July 15/ July 17	July 29 /July 31
MC	July 15/ July 17	July 29 /July 31
TCE	Aug 9 / Aug 14	Aug 23 / Aug 28
PERC	Aug 9 / Aug 14	Aug 23 / Aug 28
Carbon Tet	Oct 1/Oct 7	Oct 22/ Oct 28
Asbestos	Oct 1/Oct 7	Oct 22/ Oct 28

Sulfoxaflor

On July 12, OPP is planning to register new uses of the insecticide sulfoxaflor. The registration decision also restores uses previously vacated by the 9th Circuit Court after pollinator advocates petitioned for a review of the initial 2013 registration. Since the vacatur, OPP has received data that adequately demonstrates that there will be no unreasonable adverse effects to honey bees from this registration decision. OPP's risk assessment demonstrates that when used according to the required label directions, sulfoxaflor has no significant risk to human health and lower risk to non-target wildlife than the registered alternatives.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

2019 BIO World Congress on Industrial Biotechnology

On July 8, OPP's Mike Mendelsohn will participate in a panel on bio-pesticides/RNAi in Des Moines, Iowa. BIO is an international trade association of biotechnology companies, academic institutions, state biotechnology centers and related organizations.

45th Annual Summer Meeting, The Toxicology Forum

On July 9, OPP's Dr. Elizabeth Méndez will moderate a panel in a session on differences between the U.S. and EU regulatory frameworks for developmental thyroid and neurotoxicity testing.

Vietnam Glyphosate Technical Meeting

July 15-18, AA Dunn and OPP's Rick Keigwin and Dr. Monique Perrin will join USDA's Foreign Agriculture Service officials on a trip to Hanoi, Vietnam to meet with government officials from the Vietnam Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and other government agencies in Vietnam to discuss the U.S. pesticide regulatory process, the international impact of EPA's work, and the Vietnamese ban of glyphosate.

Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Hot Topics:

OCFO is working with OW and OLEM to prepare an operating plan for the $414 million Congress appropriated for EPA in the 2019 disaster supplemental. The operating plan is due to OMB on July 12 and Congress on July 22. The plan must include EPA's proposed allocations by appropriation, program project and state or territory.

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:

The Senior Leadership Council meeting is scheduled for the afternoon of July 17 to discuss budget and strategic priorities for the agency. New or revised multi-year resource plans are due by July 2 to OCFO to help prepare for the meeting. OCFO is scheduled to brief the Administrator on the SLC meeting on July 12.

OCFO is preparing a joint memorandum from the ADA and CFO on the transition to the automated bowling chart reports for FY 2020. The joint memo will be issued to the agency soon.

On July 8, OCFO will participate in a briefing for the Administrator with OP and OMS regarding the Evidence Based Policymaking Act.

Other:

By July 18, OCFO will award year 2 funds ($125K) to Cherokee Nation to support tribal participation in E-Enterprise.

The next issue of the E-Enterprise Bulletin will be published at the end of July.

Office of the Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations

Hot Topics:

July 10 - House Transportation and Infrastructure, Water Resources and Environment Subcom will hold a hearing on Water Resources Development Acts: Status of Implementation and Assessing Future Needs (No EPA Witness)

July 17- House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology's Subcommittee on Research and Technology is holding a hearing entitled, "Scientific Integrity in Federal Agencies." EPA's Scientific Integrity Official, Francesca Grifo, has been invited to testify. Not yet publicly posted

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

July 9 - EPA's Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds (OWOW) and OIR will co-host an E.O. 13132 (Federalism) consultation briefing for the Big 10 associations and state and local professional water groups to discuss the development of forthcoming national standards, required by the Clean Water Act (CWA) as amended by the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA), regulating discharges incidental to the normal operation of vessels.

July 23 - Bipartisan staff briefing for House Energy and Commerce Committee/ Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee on oil spill response planning

Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

Hot Topics:

Superfund Task Force Recommendation 30: Federal Facility Cleanups

On July 2, 2019, OECA completed Recommendation 30 of the Superfund Task Force initiative. OECA transmitted for regional use model language for amending Federal Facility Agreements (FFAs) to encourage reuse and redevelopment at federal facilities. OECA provided two options that can be used as a starting point for negotiations to place the FFA provisions on hold while a third party conducts the cleanup. In developing these options, OECA worked closely with regional staff and provided opportunities for comments from other federal agencies and states.

Superfund Task Force Recommendation 16: Process for Expediting Negotiations and PRP Cleanup Starts

On June 20, 2019, OECA signed the 2019 Remedial Design/Remedial Action: Process for Expediting Negotiations and PRP Cleanup Starts as part of Recommendation 16 of the Superfund Task Force initiative. Recommendation 16.2 of the Superfund Task Force Report focuses on expediting negotiations of CERCLA response action agreements and speeding up implementation of those cleanup agreements. The policy supersedes the 2012 Revised Policy on Managing the Duration of Remedial Design/Remedial Action Negotiations.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

On July 11, 2019, OECA Assistant Administrator Susan Bodine will speak at the EPA-ECOS meeting in Washington, D.C. on smart tools for inspectors in the field and OECA's forthcoming Effective Partnerships memorandum to enhance coordination with states on enforcement and compliance work in authorized programs.

Office of General Counsel
Hot Topics:

***California, et al. v. U.S. EPA, et al.*, No. 19-03807 (N.D. Cal. filed June 28, 2019). New Litigation:** Attorneys General from 10 states and the District of Columbia filed suit on June 28, 2019 in the Northern District of California, challenging the Agency's denial of an asbestos-related TSCA § 21 petition. The § 21 petitioners had requested that EPA initiate a TSCA rulemaking for additional reporting requirements on asbestos manufacturers and processors. Plaintiffs ask the court to (1) review the Agency's denial and order the Agency to initiate requested rule under TSCA and/or (2) set the denial aside under the Administrative Procedure Act.

***Center for Food Safety v. EPA*, No. 19-001958 (D.D.C. filed June 28, 2019). New FOIA Litigation:** The Center for Food Safety filed a lawsuit alleging that EPA failed to respond to its FOIA request submitted in July 2018. The FOIA request seeks "[a]ny and all documents, from April 2017 to present, related to" two Center for Food Safety petitions filed in 2017. According to the FOIA request, one petition requests EPA to not include neonicotinoid-coated seeds as an exemption under FIFRA and other petition requests EPA to revise testing requirements of pesticides prior to registration.

Office of International and Tribal Affairs

Hot Topics:

Bilateral Meeting with Mexico - Administrator Wheeler had a bilateral meeting with the newly appointed Secretary of SEMARNAT, Victor Toledo, to discuss the US- Mexico Border Program and transboundary water pollution along the border. They agreed to continue the U.S.-Mexico Border 2020 Program for another year and in the interim, the OITA AA and his counterpart in SEMARNAT will convene a meeting to develop a new U.S.-Mexico Border Program post 2020. The Administrator also raised U.S. concerns with transboundary water pollution, particularly sewage spills coming from aging and lacking infrastructure in Tijuana and other border cities in Mexico. Mexico is creating a new interagency Commission at the federal level to come up with comprehensive solutions to address this problem, and SEMARNAT will be meeting with the new Baja California Governor. The Ministers also discussed the importance of engaging indigenous communities and recognizing traditional ecological knowledge.

International Roundtable on Financing Water – EPA (OITA, OW) participated in a meeting at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to discuss current practices in global water infrastructure finance. The roundtable meeting focused on the Americas and was organized by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in partnership with IDB, World Bank, World Water Council and the USG. Participants discussed challenges associated with delivering water finance mechanisms, including a lack of credit worthy utilities, and the need for country-level institutional reform and governance. The meeting identified regional needs and opportunities in Latin America, and EPA was able to build key regional partnerships that will help EPA advance its international water infrastructure objectives. The next roundtable is planned for November 2019 to be focused on issues specific to Southeast Asia.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

July 9 - The Administrator will be meeting with One More Generation to discuss marine plastics litter.

July 9 - The Administrator will be meeting with National Tribal Caucus Executive Officers to discuss tribal priorities.

Office of the Land and Emergency Management

Hot Topics:

Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR).

Interagency follow-up comments have been received on the CCR Phase 2 proposed rule package.

Georgia's CCR permit program notice was signed by the Administrator on June 21 and published in the FR on June 28.

Clean Air Act 112(r) Risk Management Program (RMP). Distributed materials to the workgroup on June 24 for review prior to workgroup closure currently scheduled for July 15.

Ongoing major Superfund NPL sites. We are working with Region 1 on Centredale, 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). OMB review concluded on July 1. The rule was sent to OEX for Administrator signature (court-deadline for signature is July 2, 2019).

PFAS.

PFOA and PFOS contaminated groundwater guidance. The public comment period concluded on June 10, 2019, and we are reviewing the comments received.

Working on inclusion as "hazardous substances" under CERCLA.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

Superfund Administrator's Emphasis List (AEL). We are preparing for the next quarterly update of the AEL following through on the June 28 briefing with the Administrator.

Exemption for Air Releases from Animal Waste at Farms from EPCRA Final Rule. The rule was published in the FR on June 13 and is effective July 15, 2019.

Objection Letter to Secretary General of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Sent to OEX for Administrator signature on July 2.

Clean Water Act Hazardous Substances Spill Prevention (SPLASHs) Final Rule. Expected to send to OP for OMB review shortly.

Office of Mission Support

Hot Topics:

Employee Viewpoint Survey

The EVS is now closed for EPA employees. The unadjusted 2019 EVS response rate across EPA was 57.9%. The governmentwide response rate as of June 27, 2019, is 35.6% with Region 6 having the highest response rate at 81.1%. The Federal EVS will close to all agencies on July 5, 2019. OPM will send final agency and governmentwide response rates in the late summer/early fall.

OMB Requirement to Update Agency Contingency Plan

In accordance with OMB's guidance on the agency's operations in the absence of appropriations, Circular A-11 section 124, OMS is reviewing and submitting the agency's updated lapse plans to OMB by August 1, 2019. In addition to updating the lapse plan, OMS is preparing a new lapse plan template and reviewing best practices to incorporate into lapse planning.

Termination of Suspensions for Three Respondents in the Flint, MI Water Crisis

On July 2, 2019, the EPA Suspension and Debarment Official terminated the suspensions of three Respondents involved in the Flint, Michigan water crises. A suspension is an immediate exclusion from receiving federal contracts and covered transactions to protect the public interest pending completion of legal proceedings. The suspensions were terminated pursuant to dismissal of the criminal charges that constituted cause for suspension. The individuals whose suspensions were terminated are: Adam Rosenthal, Water Quality Analyst for Michigan Department of Environmental Quality; Corrine Miller, Director of the Michigan Department of Human Health Services, Bureau of Epidemiology and Michigan State Epidemiologist; and Michael Glasgow, Utilities Director for the City of Flint, Michigan's Department of Public Works.

eRulemaking moving from EPA to the General Services Administration (GSA)

As part of Executive Order 13781, Comprehensive Plan for Reorganizing the Executive Branch, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has presented a business case for moving the eRulemaking Program from EPA to the General Services Administration (GSA).

Although the transition is not scheduled to take place until October 1, 2019, GSA has requested a formal written authority from OMB designating them as the new managing partner for the program. OMB has drafted a memorandum, which they are planning to issue to GSA on July 1, with a copy to the EPA Administrator.

The eRulemaking Program is a Federal E-Government Shared Line of Business created in conjunction with the E-Government Act of 2002 and corresponding E-Government Strategy of the same year. The program facilitates interagency governance and manages the Federal Docket Management System and Regulations.gov, which provide the public with one-stop access to electronic dockets and the ability to comment on proposed rulemakings and de-regulatory actions for multiple federal agencies.

The rationale for moving the eRulemaking Program from EPA to the GSA primarily centers on a desire to consolidate and better coordinate regulatory services to improve the shared services ecosystem, with a focus on shared service delivery and increasing adoption. EPA and GSA are supportive of the move and have been coordinating for several months.

GSA manages:

- The Unified Shared Services Management (USSM) program;
- The Regulatory Information Services Center (RISC), encompassing RISC/Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) Combined Information System (ROCIS) and RegInfo.gov;
- Other federal shared services.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

EPA's National Honor Awards Ceremony

The EPA's National Honor Awards Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, July 10, 2019, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Atrium Hall of the Ronald Reagan and International Trade Building in Washington, DC. The Administrator will be presenting the awards, which recognize a distinguished or exceptional employee or group of employees for achievements in 2018. A reception for award recipients will be held in the Atrium of the Ronald Reagan and International Trade Building immediately following the ceremony.

Office of Policy
Hot Topics or Upcoming Major Decisions or Events

90th Annual League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) National Convention & Exposition – On July 9th, the Director of OP's Office of Environmental Justice will present and lead a panel regarding SES opportunities in the federal government. The event will be in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Opportunity Zones and Community-Driven Solutions Discussion – On July 10th, Brittany Bolen will lead a discussion at the Executive Management Council meeting of EPA support for Opportunity Zones through the Community-Driven Solutions effort under the EJ and Community Revitalization Council.

Active Interagency Reviews from OMB	
Subject	**OMB Due Date**
State ANPRM: Consolidation of Exemptions in the International Traffic in Arms Regulations	07/08/2019
FAR Interim: Federal Acquisition Regulation: Prohibition on Contracting for Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment (FAR case 2018-017)	07/10/2019
FAR NPRM: Federal Acquisition Regulation: Tax on Certain Foreign Procurement (FAR Case 2016-013)	07/11/2019
DOI/NPS FRM: Alaska; Hunting and Trapping in National Preserves	07/12/2019
FAR NPRM: Federal Acquisition Regulation: Increased Micro-Purchase and Simplified Acquisition Thresholds (FAR Case 2018-004)	07/12/2019
DOT/PHMSA NPRM: Pipeline Safety: Amendments to Parts 192 and 195 to Require Valve Installation and Minimum Rupture Detection Standards	07/12/2019
DOI/FWS NPRM: Migratory Bird Permits; Regulations Governing Take of Migratory Birds	07/17/2019
DOD/ACE RGL: Timeframes for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certifications and Clarification of Waiver Responsibility	N/A
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 June 28 – July 2, 2019		
FRL #	**Title**	**Date Sent to FR**
9993-44-Region 6	Texas: Proposed Authorization of State-Initiated Changes and Incorporation by Reference of State Hazardous Waste Management Program	07-02-2019
9995-16-OMS	Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records: RAMS	07-02-2019
9995-21-OMS	Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records: ICOM	07-02-2019
9996-26-Region 3	Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Delaware; Negative Declaration for the Oil and Natural Gas Industry Control Techniques Guidelines	07-02-2019
9996-29-Region 2	Proposed CERCLA Cost Recovery Settlement Regarding the PJP Landfill Superfund Site, Hudson County, New Jersey	07-02-2019
9996-13-OCSPP	Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (19-3.B)	07-02-2019
9996-22-OAR	National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Municipal Solid Waste Landfills Residual Risk and Technology Review	07-02-2019
9994-37-OCSPP	Indoxacarb; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions	2019-07-01
9995-17-OCSPP	Acetic Acid Ethenyl Ester, Polymer with Ethene and Ethenol; Tolerance Exemption	07-01-2019
9995-61-Region 7	Air Plan Approval; Missouri; Measurement of Emissions of Air Contaminants	07-01-2019
9995-74-OW	Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for the Oil and Gas Extraction Point Source Category – Implementation Date Extension	07-01-2019
9996-21-OAR	Standards of Performance for Stationary Compression Ignition Internal Combustion Engines Amendments	07-01-2019
9996-07-Region 3	Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Delaware; Emissions Statements Rule Certification for the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard	07-01-2019
9996-11-Region 5	Terre Haute, Indiana. Partial Vigo County 2010 SO2 Redesignation and Maintenance Plan (Fayette and Harrison Townships)	07-01-2019
9996-20-OAR	Standards of Performance for Stationary Compression Ignition Internal Combustion Engines	07-01-2019

9992-78-OCSPP	Certain New Chemicals; Receipt and Status Information for April 2019	06-28-2019
9995-99-Region 8	Federal Implementation Plan to Establish a Bank for Ozone Precursor Emission Reduction Credits from Existing Sources on Indian Country Lands within the Uinta Basin Ozone Nonattainment Area	06-28-2019
9995-94-Region 8	Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Montana; Revisions to Administrative Rules of Montana	06-28-2019
9995-98-Region 9	Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Arizona; Control of Emissions from Existing Municipal Solid Waste Landfills	06-28-2019
9995-96-Region 9	Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Pinal County Air Quality Control District; Control of Emissions from Existing Municipal Solid Waste Landfills	06-28-2019
9996-04-Region 3	Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Removal of Allegheny County Requirements Applicable to Gasoline Volatility in the Allegheny County Portion of the Pittsburgh-Beaver Valley Area	06-28-2019
9996-00-OAR	Reclassification of Major Sources as Area Sources Under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act	06-28-2019
9996-02-Region 8	Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Montana; Regional Haze 5-Year Progress Report State Implementation Plan	06-28-2019
9996-05-Region 3	National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan; National Priorities List: Deletion of the Strasburg Landfill Superfund Site	06-28-2019
9996-06-Region 3	District of Columbia: Amendments to the Control of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds from Motor Vehicle and Mobile Equipment Non-Assembly Line Coating Operations	06-28-2019
9996-09-Region 5	Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Second Maintenance Plan for 1997 Ozone NAAQS; Dayton-Springfield	06-28-2019

Office of Research and Development
Hot Topics:

ORD leadership will participate in the ECOS-EPA Leadership Meeting on July 11 in Washington, DC. Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta will join EPA's Office of Public Affairs Andrea Drinkard and Pennsylvania DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell in leading a discussion on Emerging Environmental Threats and Risk Communications. EPA's Office of Public Affairs is leading a new workgroup looking to identify best practices for communicating effectively on emerging threats. This discussion will highlight best practices and a potential state/tribal pilot on specific emerging contaminants beginning later this summer. Other agenda topics include oversight of state-delegated programs, national permitting policy, Regional-State planning and communication on compliance work in authorized programs and more.

Technical support update: University Park, Illinois
ORD scientists participated in conference calls last week with Region 5, Illinois EPA (IEPA) and Aqua Illinois relating to the testing that will lead to qualifying additional areas of University Park to have the do-not-drink order lifted. They also viewed preliminary scale analysis data provided by Aqua Illinois and received descriptions of some bench-scale immersion testing of exhumed sections of service line piping from a University Park residence. They have had discussions with Region 5 staff about treatment and corrosion control study recommendations going forward, and discussions of water sampling data interpretation, both historical and post-treatment change. Region 5 is working with IEPA on requirements for future corrosion control optimization studies. As background, Region 5 recently requested that ORD provide technical support to the State of Illinois and the community of University Park (a Chicago suburb). The City recently found high lead levels in homes during routine Lead & Copper Rule sampling, and the utility has issued a Do Not Drink order.

ORD PFAS Research Making an Impact
ORD's latest report to New Hampshire was related to stack testing at an industrial site. NH DES has made all of the ORD PFAS reports publicly available on the NH PFAS Investigation website.

EPA-Athens Construction Begins
The Athens, Georgia Region 4 facility construction will begin this week. This is part of the Agency space consolidation effort in Athens. ORD management has worked closely with OARM and Region 4 on the ongoing project. ORD plans on vacating the main ORD lab building in early August

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

July 8-12, the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) will hold its Annual Education Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. This conference brings together environmental health professionals to learn about and discuss current and emerging environmental health topics and issues. This year, ORD will participate in a discussion with other EPA leaders on "Hot Topics in Environmental Health." Regions 5 and 7, Office of Environmental Justice, Ohio state partners and others will also participate. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Department of Housing and Urban Development will also be presenting their approaches in the session.

EPA Waste Tools Presentation to FEMA

EPA's ORD, OLEM, and Region 5, in coordination with Region 3, are presenting and discussing their disaster debris and waste management decision support tools with FEMA Region 3 for inclusion in their Concept of Operations (CONOPS) for Debris Management. In addition to tools, relevant guidance as well as research data will be presented. The goal of this July 9 dialogue is to: 1) facilitate incorporation of the debris and waste management tools and resources into the CONOPS; 2) make connections with FEMA Region 3; and 3) leverage waste management decision makers and operational experts through FEMA's state, local, territorial, and tribal engagement efforts.

Office of Water

Hot Topics/Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

Water Sub Cabinet Principals Meeting: On July 10, EPA will host the next meeting of the Water Sub Cabinet. Members of the Sub Cabinet include EPA, USDA, DOI, NOAA, the Army Corps of Engineers, FEMA, and DOE. The group will continue its productive discussions on water quantity and quality issues, and how best to coordinate activities among the federal family.

WIFIA Round 3 Letter of Interest: On July 5 letters of interest for WIFIA Round 3 are due. As early as next week, OW anticipates announcing the number of projects submitted, highlighting projects that further the Administrations' clean water priorities. Next, the EPA will evaluate and select proposed projects described using selection criteria and will invite each selected project to continue in the process by submitting a final application.

WIFIA Silicon Valley Loan Closing: As early as next week, OW will close the ninth WIFIA loan, which supports the safety and reliability of a community wastewater system and protects the San Francisco Bay through rehabilitating, repurposing, and constructing new facilities. Specifically, this infrastructure investment will replace the 1960's system to enhance the future of the Peninsula's wastewater system and enable the utility to handle future wastewater wet weather flows of up to 108 million gallons per day.

EPA and USDA Webinars on Nutrient Financing: On July 10, EPA and USDA will host the third webinar in a four-part webinar series on federal grants and innovative financing options for reducing nutrients titled "Innovative Financing Strategies for Reducing Nutrients Webinar Series: Funding Landscape-Scale Nutrient Reductions." This webinar will describe a variety of funding approaches such as crop insurance and tax incentives to increase cover crops and decrease nutrient runoff. Over 900 participants attended the previous two webinars in the series.

Puerto Rico SRF Restructuring: As early as July 11, EPA could finalize a restructuring agreement with the Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority (PRASA) of more than 200 delinquent loans with the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). The total amount of loan funds that will be restructured is $598 million. The restructuring creates a path forward for PRASA to make system investments and provide quality service to its customers, ensures repayment of SRF loans, and protects federal and local taxpayer investments.

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