Region 1

Hot Topics

R1 Administrator Visits Raymark Industries Site in Connecticut
On June 17, RA Dennis Deziel visited the recently constructed barrier wall and haul road at the Raymark site. The barrier wall, fence and haul road are integral parts of EPA's consolidation remedy and will insulate dozens of residential abutters from planned remedy construction activities. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Major General Jeffery Millhorn and Stratford Mayor Laura Hoydick also toured the site.

R1 Responds to Star Pin Mill Fire in Connecticut
On June 13, R1 responded to a fire at an abandoned mill complex on the banks of the Housatonic River in Shelton, Connecticut. At the time of the fire, the mill contained hundreds of containers of hazardous substances, and the roofing material was believed to contain asbestos. Prior to the fire, EPA Brownfield's money was to be used to spur redevelopment of the Mill complex. As a result of the thermal column from the fire, asbestos containing ashes were potentially released into the surrounding community and CT DEEP has hired a clean-up contractor to recover the asbestos contaminated material. The facility may be referred to EPA for a removal action to address the containers of hazardous materials that are trapped in the remnants of the building.

Offshore Wind Energy Transmission Planning Collaboration
On June 11, R1 participated in a multi-agency call led by NROC to develop a series of webinars on transmission planning policies and procedures aimed at educating resource agency representatives participating in offshore wind project reviews. Energy grid interconnection points in southern New England are limited in their ability to interconnect particular amounts of offshore wind energy, which limits the ability of future proposed offshore wind projects to use particular cable routes and onshore connection points. The group is working to develop a series of webinars to obtain a better understanding of grid and transmission planning issues as they relate to offshore wind in the region.

R1 Denies NPDES Permit Application
On June 15, R1 issued a denial to the Town of Marblehead for its application to renew its NPDES permit at the Sargent Pump Road Station. The permit renewal was denied because the discharge was a sanitary sewer overflow. Following the denial of the application, the existing permit was terminated, and an order was issued to eliminate the discharge. The system is tied into an existing treatment plant.

R1 Continues Work on Revitalizing Former Mill Sites Throughout New England
This week, R1 made further progress toward revitalization of three historic mill sites – a special emphasis area of the Regional Administrator. Under the Targeted Brownfields Assessment program, two mill properties located in Opportunity Zones launched environmental assessments: a Phase 2 assessment began at the Great Northern Paper Mill site in East Millinocket, Maine, and an assessment was initiated characterizing debris for ultimate removal and disposal at the Rand Street Mill site in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. On June 11, R1 joined HQ's Land Revitalization program in conducting a webinar for the Town of Lincoln, Maine, part of ongoing technical assistance the Region is proving the Town to support the redevelopment of the Lincoln Pulp and Paper Mill site (also located within an Opportunity Zone).

VT Seeks Public Comment on Renovation, Repair, and Painting Rule Regulation
On June 11, Vermont published a notification in the Rutland Herald seeking public comment on its Regulations for Lead Control. Vermont Department of Health (VDH) is currently seeking authorization

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for the Renovation, Repair, and Painting (RRP) Rule. Region 1 and HQ have reviewed draft rule language and will continue to review draft authorization materials as they are submitted.

R1 Issues Administrative Order to Taylor Farms of New England
On June 11, R1 issued an administrative compliance order to Taylor Farms New England, Inc. to correct violations of Section 112(r) of the Clean Air Act and EPCRA at its facility in North Kingstown, RI. R1 previously found that the company was not adequately protecting evaporator installations from potential impacts and on April 2, a major ammonia release occurred when a forklift hit evaporator piping containing ammonia gas. Fourteen employees were sent to the hospital for evaluation.

R1 Settles CWA Consent Agreement against Barden's Boat Yard, Inc. in Marion, MA
On June 12, R1 filed an administrative consent agreement and final order settling its case against Barden's Boat Yard, Inc. for violations of the 2015 NPDES Stormwater Multi-Sector General Permit for Industrial Activities (MSGP) at its Marion, MA boat storage and repair yard. Under the agreement, the company agreed to pay a $32,000 penalty. EPA had found that the company had failed to conduct certain monitoring and discharged process wastewater to the stormwater system.

Dredging at New Bedford Harbor in Massachusetts
Over 110,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment has been dredged from the commercial area of New Bedford Harbor. The dredging was authorized by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection under the State Enhanced Remedy (SER) provisions of EPA's Superfund Record of Decision for the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site. To date, over 550,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment has been dredged with state funding under the SER program since it began in 2005, providing navigational improvements and environmental cleanup at the same time. The project is a great example of cooperation at federal, state, and local levels.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Nothing to Report.

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Region 2

Hot Topics

White House Special Representative for Puerto Rico Disaster Recovery to Visit PR
On June 15 - June16, RA Pete Lopez joined Rear Admiral Brown during his visit to PR. The Admiral was there for a status on hurricane preparedness and disaster recovery, with a focus on energy issues. Officials from other federal and local agencies also participated, including FEMA, US ACOE, HUD, USDA, DOE, the PR Energy Board, and PREPA (the electric utility). RA Pete Lopez will join many of the meetings. The visit included site visits to the Palo Seco Power Plant, the Port of the Americas in Ponce, the Rico Banana Farm in Guayanilla, the EcoElectrica Power Plant and Costa Sur Power Plant in Guayanilla (the latter was badly damaged in the January earthquake) and the AES coal-fired Power Plant.

Hudson River Site Road Property Transfer Completed
EPA has completed its work to transfer ownership of an access road used for the Hudson River PCBs Superfund Site cleanup to the Warren and Washington Counties Industrial Development Agency (WWIDA). The transfer of EPA's ownership interest supports community efforts to redevelop the location of GE's former sediment processing facility, located in the town of Fort Edward, New York.

R2 Workshop on *Race, Resilience & The Role of Being an Ally*
On June 18, R2 hosted an interactive webinar on race, privilege and collaboration in the workplace. The goal was to provide attendees a safe space to share their feelings about the ongoing civil unrest and societal conflict, and to provide them with tools grounded in evidence-based research to help them cope with the mental fatigue they might be experiencing. The program provided practical ways for our employees to take care of themselves and their colleagues, with a highlight on how to be an ally at work. The workshop presenters/facilitators were Buck Davis and Company of Atlanta, GA; they presented a similar webinar for R3 last week.

Suez Water, Hackensack NJ Required to Comply with SDWA
This system serves water to nearly 800,000 customers and sells water to other consecutive systems in NJ. Our review of information submitted to us by the system showed that it is in violation of filtration avoidance criteria and disinfection requirements. This week an AO was issued to address these violations, including the requirement to conduct annual inspections of the watershed/wellhead protection program and the effectiveness of the disinfection treatment, and the failure to demonstrate compliance with all microbial inactivation requirements.

FIFRA Enforcement
R2 issued Notices of Detention and Hearing to Business Development Co. (BDC) of Guaynabo, PR on June 10, and Aguilera LLC of Caguas, PR on June 15. BDC imported disinfectants that are not registered with EPA; Aguilera imported unregistered hair products for which the labels assert that they "prevent lice." R2 issue an Advisory Letter on June 9, to V Technical Textiles Inc. of Palmyra, NY for offering facemasks with claims being made that go beyond the Treated Article Exemption, and are therefore unregistered and misbranded pesticides. On June 4, R2 issued a Notice of Refusal of Admission to Omni BS International of Bayside, NY for importing unregistered disinfectants. On June 4, we issued a Notice of Detention and Hearing to Canature WaterGroup of Carmel, IN for importing Pura UV Lamps for disinfecting water without filing a Notice of Arrival. On June 9, we issued a

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Notice of Warning & Detention to UV Pure Technologies of Toronto, ON, Canada for importing misbranded pesticide devices, Hallett UV Disinfection devices.

Pretreatment Program Update
On June 12, R2 notified the pretreatment coordinators for NY POTWs with approved pretreatment programs of guidance and updates related to program implementation including upcoming webinars and COVID-19-related issues. The notice also served as a reminder of the upcoming compliance date of July 14, for the pretreatment dental rule. We plan to send out updates on a regular basis going forward.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Arsenic Mine Superfund Site – Record of Decision
We expect to issue the ROD for this site before the end of June. The decision is expected to include relocation of a number of residents whose homes and properties are affected by high levels of arsenic contamination.

CERCLA Site Community Group Meetings
The Gowanus CAG will meet virtually on June 23. The St. Gobain (Hoosick Falls) Community Participation Working Group will meet virtually on June 24.

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Region 3

Hot Topics

Virtual Outreach on Brownfields in Maryland
On June 11, the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) hosted a webinar titled *Let's talk TBAs (Targeted Brownfield Assessments)* for cities, counties and redevelopment authorities in Maryland. Eleven communities participated. EPA explained our TBA program to the participants. TBA's are assessments EPA performs through a contractor. They are free and are performed on a first come, first served basis. TBA's are not nationally competed like our grant offerings. EPA is working with MDP to plan additional Brownfield training for communities.

Meeting with Cobbs Creek Restoration and Community Foundation
R3 staff participated in a conference call on June 10th with John Burnes, representative of Cobbs Creek Golf Course regarding EPA funding sources available. OCTEA has been assisting this foundation to determine their eligibility for Opportunity Zone benefits as well as navigating other EPA programs that could assist with their restoration efforts. Cobbs Creek is working to restore on-site wetlands, creek restoration, and developing environmental education programs. Various Brownfields Program funding sources, criteria, and assistance available to apply for grants were discussed. The potential contamination due to previous military activities and related potential risks related to the gas pipeline issue is typically funded through the Brownfields Program to assess and clean-up, as necessary.

DC Regulation Change Allows for Synthetic Minor Permits and Updates Title V Fees
On June 5, the District of Columbia (DC) published a final rule which allows the District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) to issue synthetic minor permits and updates their Title V fee regulations, including adding fees for synthetic minors. A synthetic minor permit includes voluntary emission limits and allows permittees to avoid being subject to certain conditions that would otherwise be applicable. The increased title V fees will allow DOEE to collect much needed revenue to support the District's title V program. The rule, which was proposed on February 3, 2017, received comments from the Sierra Club, EPA and the DC Water and Sewer Authority. DC made several changes to address the comments including adding language that clarifies the requirement for synthetic minor permits, clarifications regarding judicial review procedures and the definition of "general permit" in this context. The rule is effective as of the date of publishing.

Air Plan Approval; Pennsylvania; 1997 8-hour Ozone NAAQS Second Maintenance Plan for the Franklin County Area
In this notice of proposed rulemaking notice (NPRM), EPA is proposing to approve Pennsylvania's state implementation plan (SIP) revision pertaining to its plan for maintaining the 1997 8-hour ozone national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) in the Franklin County area.

Air Plan Approval; West Virginia; Redesignation of the Marshall Sulfur Dioxide Nonattainment Area to Attainment and Approval of the Area's Maintenance Plan
In this notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM), EPA is proposing approval of West Virginia's request to redesignate to attainment the Marshall nonattainment area for the 2010 1-hour sulfur dioxide (SO_2) national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS). EPA is also proposing to approve, as a revision to the West Virginia state implementation plan (SIP), West Virginia's maintenance plan for the Marshall area.

Withdrawal; Maryland; Withdrawal of Proposed Disapproval of Transport State Implementation Plan Submittal for the 2010 Sulfur Dioxide Standard
EPA is withdrawing its proposed disapproval of the interstate transport portion of Maryland's infrastructure state implementation plan (SIP) submission because Verso/Luke, the primary source of sulfur dioxide (SO_2), emissions has shut down and surrendered all its operating permits.

Air Plan Approval; Maryland; 1997 8-hour Ozone NAAQS Limited Maintenance Plan for the Kent and Queen Anne's Counties Area
In this final rulemaking notice (FRN), EPA is approving a state implementation plan (SIP) revision submitted by Maryland. This revision pertains to the Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE) plan for maintaining the 1997 8-hour ozone national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for the Kent and Queen Ann's Counties area.

Crater Resources Site, Upper Merion Township, Montgomery County, PA
The installation of the liner for the Quarry 1 cap was completed on Saturday, June 13. Work anticipated the week of June 15, will include testing the liner, followed by the installation of the geocomposite drainage layer and the anchor drainage trench. Construction of the Quarry 1 cap is expected to be complete by the end of September 2020.

Chester Environmental Partnership Meeting, Chester, PA.
On June 16, EPA will participate in the Chester Environmental Partnership (CEP) meeting that will be held via conference call. Participants will include local, state, and industry partners. During the call, EPA will share an update on the remedial investigation at the Metro Container Superfund Site and answer any questions on our activities and next steps.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Regional Administrator Cosmo Servidio has the following event scheduled:

June 24 Virtual Meeting: WV Chamber Summer Weekly Key Topic: **WOTUS Rule & Clean Act Chapter 401**

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Region 4

Hot Topics

COVID-19 activities
R4 Atlanta offices and Athens lab continue to operate in Phase 1. The GMD continues to operate under the COOP.

Yazoo Backwater Pumps, MS
USACE, Vicksburg District, issued a notice of intent to prepare a Supplemental EIS on the proposed project. EPA is a cooperating agency on the proposed project. Scoping comments were submitted to the USACE on June 15 and comments on the proposed models for the study were submitted on June 12. There is ongoing media, public and environmental interest in the proposed project.

Proposed Fuel Regulation Changes (40 CFR Part 80)
R4 and HQs are collaborating regarding the proposed rule change which would remove EPA's red dye requirement for off-road diesel fuel. FDEP has expressed concerns to R4 that based on the proposed rule, it appears EPA would no longer be determining fuel shortages (which is a necessary step to allow fuel waivers to be issued) outside of RVP season, during which time hurricanes or other disasters could render a fuel shortage determination necessary.

Fairfax Wood Treaters Superfund Site, Jacksonville, FL
The Notice of Intent to Delete (NOID) was published in the Federal Register on June 16. Comments are due by July 16.

Wilmington ODMDS
The final rule package for Wilmington (1987) ODMDS cancellation designation was published in the Federal Register on June 11, with an effective date of July 13.

SC Dept of Agriculture Meeting
On June 17, RA Walker traveled to Richburg, SC to participate in a meeting, farm tour and signing of the EPA-SC Department of Agriculture MOU with Commissioner Weathers, SC Department of Agriculture.

ABA SEER Water Resources Webinar
On June 18, RA Walker provided remarks on national water perspectives during the virtual American Bar Association's Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources Spring conference webinar panel entitled "Water Resources: Access to Clean and Safe Water." Other panelists include Kurt Thiede (R5 RA) and Noah Valenstein (Secretary, FDEP)

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Nothing to Report.

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Region 5

Hot Topics

RA Thiede Joins Administrator Wheeler in Wis. to Highlight Trash-Free Waters Grant and Multiple Air Redesignations
Key Message: RA Thiede joined Administrative Wheeler for a series of events in Southeast Wisconsin, including announcing the first Great Lakes Trash-Free Waters grant recipient in Milwaukee. This two-day trip also included a visit to a dairy farm, a tour of the Solvay Coke Superfund site, and a meeting with senior leadership of SC Johnson. Chief of Staff Joe Liebau joined the Administrator to announce air redesignations in Door and Sheboygan Counties. There was great involvement from congressional representatives and local elected representatives throughout the trip.

EPA Expands R5 National Disaster Debris Recovery Tool (DDRT) to Cover All 50 States
Key Message: The interactive mapping tool developed by R5 to help manage and coordinate debris generated by a natural disaster was expanded to include more than 20,000 facilities throughout the country. The expansion was a collaboration with all of EPA's regional offices and multiple program offices in headquarters.

The purpose of the DDRT is to advance the safe recovery of disaster debris while improving community resilience. The tool can be used for disaster response as well as the recovery of materials during site remediations. R5 supported a national webinar on June 18 and is committed to training and implementation throughout the Agency.

R5 Working with Illinois EPA to Understand Recently Released Lake County Ethylene Oxide (EtO) Ambient Air Sampling Data
Key Message: The Lake County, Ill., Health Department shared the latest ambient air EtO sampling data near Medline Industries and Vantage Specialty Chemicals with R5 staff on Tuesday, June 16. Shortly afterwards, Lake County officials posted the data to their website. While some of the data was near expectations, there was data near the Vantage site that was significantly elevated. R5 staff met with Illinois EPA and determined the need for further investigation to validate the testing results. There has been significant public interest in this recent release of data. The sampling data was collected at 12 sites, every third day, for 30 days starting April 13. Data collection began after both facilities implemented all required pollution control upgrades. The Lake County Health Department initiated ambient air sampling following the IEPA's approval of Medline's stack test results in late-March. Medline is not allowed to emit more than 150 pounds of EtO per year. R5 is continuing to work with state and local partners including the contracted laboratory to ensure the data is accurate.

S.H. Bell Settlement Orders Time-Critical Removal Action on Chicago's Southeast Side
Key Message: On June 16, EPA entered into an administrative order with SH Bell Co. The settlement provides for the performance of a time-critical removal action which involves the excavation of soil at potions of the five residences on Chicago's southeast side.

The soil removal is taking place at residences where manganese concentrations are equal to or exceed the EPA's residential soil removal management level. SH Bell has agreed to sample additional homes in the area if requested by the owners and remediate up to 13 additional properties if sampling data indicates residential levels are above the standard. Soil remediation is projected to begin this summer.

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Status of R5 Reopening

Key Message: On Tuesday, June 16, RA Thiede and other senior leaders within R5 hosted a teleconference for all R5 employees to provide an update about the Region's phased reopening status. The Region's facilities in Chicago and Ohio started a 7-day closure on June 15.

Employees asked roughly a dozen questions about the reopening process. RA Thiede also provided remarks about the Agency's plan to provide race and cultural awareness workshop opportunities for employees interested.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

June 22 **EPA to Propose to Redesignate Morgan County, Ind., to Attainment for 2010 Sulfur Dioxide**

Based on three years of recent air quality monitoring data measured from 2016-2018, the Morgan County, Ind., area is meeting 2010 National Ambient Air Quality Standards for sulfur dioxide. The proposed redesignation will be ready for signature during the week of June 22, and then published in the *Federal Register*.

June 23 **Proposed Site Deletions for Three Superfund Sites Set to Publish in the Federal Register**

The proposed deletion for the Fridley Commons Park Well Site and the proposed partial deletions for Southeast Rockford Groundwater Contamination and Allied Chemical & Ironton Coke have been signed by RA Thiede and sent to the Office of Federal Register. These proposed site deletions are expected to be published next Tuesday, June 23. The public comment period for these sites will run for 30 days from June 23 - July 23.

June 24 **R5 to Host Virtual Region 5 Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC)**

R5 is coordinating with the Regional Tribal Caucus to carry out a virtual RTOC meeting. Among other agenda items, this meeting will follow up on the discussion of COVID-19-related needs and responses during the May 19 virtual RTOC.

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Region 6

Hot Topics

COVID-19
R6 is coordinating closely with our state and tribal environmental and public health agencies as well as EPA HQ offices to elevate and address challenges quickly. Renaissance Tower in Dallas and Warehouse in Addison started 7-day closure on Monday, June 2. R6 Return to the Workplace Plan was shared with employees and National AFGE on June 3. To date, no R6 employee has tested positive for Covid-19.

Navajo Area Uranium (Tronox) Mine, Navajo Nation
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its devastating impacts to the Navajo Nation, EPA is reviewing its commitments to the Inspector General for the Tronox uranium mines. The Navajo Nation government offices are closed except for essential services and delayed coordination with the Nation will significantly impact planned deliverables. The R6 and R9 original commitments to the Inspector General included draft final Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analyses (EE/CAs) for Tronox mine sites by the end of December 2020.

Chevron Questa Mine Superfund Site, Questa, New Mexico
EPA is working closely with Chevron regarding water sample analysis to be used preparing a Proposed Plan to amend the ROD for the Chevron Questa Mine Site to address CWA requirements. Laboratory results are beginning to come in for the samples, however, some laboratories have indicated delays due to COVID-19. Sample results are currently scheduled to be delivered by late-June and will be validated upon receipt. Validation will take approximately two weeks. Chevron will continue to update the agencies on timing.

Magellan Pipeline Diesel Spill, Tulsa, Oklahoma
On June 8, EPA received a report that a third-party lateral drilling company struck a pipeline owned by Magellan Pipeline Company. The spill was originally reported as a worst-case discharge, estimated volume of 1500 bbls of diesel fuel. The report was later updated to an estimate of 218 bbls. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, EPA R6 made the decision to remotely monitor the response. EPA requested daily updates on the status of the clean-up and documentation, such as photographs, and coordinated closely with State and local responders on-scene overseeing the cleanup. Observation of the Arkansas River with boats and aircraft detected no sheen or fuel in the river. All free phase diesel has been recovered and sent for disposal and 260 tons of petroleum impacted soil was transported for disposal. EPA will continue to monitor this spill.

BNSF Train Derailment, Wynnewood, Oklahoma
On June 12, 11 BNSF rail cars derailed, causing the release of approximately 3000 gallons of sodium hydrosulfide, a caustic liquid. As a precautionary measure, 75 citizens were evacuated to a nearby church. BNSF set-up an air monitoring network to monitor conditions during the response. The inhalation concern was hydrogen sulfide. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, EPA R6 made the decision to remotely monitor the response, requesting daily updates on the status of the clean-up and documentation, such as photographs, and coordinated closely with state and local responders on-scene overseeing the cleanup. The air monitoring detected no elevated readings outside the immediate spill area and the evacuation was lifted by approximately 0900 on June 13.

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Sierra Club, Austin, Texas
On June 15, RA McQueen signed a letter acknowledging receipt of the Sierra Club's Petition for Reconsideration of Approval of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's 2019 Annual Monitoring Network Plan for Ambient Air Quality. The Petition was received by Administrator Wheeler and RA McQueen on May 27.

Tulsa Fuel and Manufacturing Site, Collinsville, Oklahoma
On June 15, Regional Administrator McQueen signed a letter to Cherokee Nation Secretary of Natural Resources, Chad Harsha, to close out consultation conducted June 3. Secretary Harsha requested formal consultation regarding deletion of the Tulsa Fuel and Manufacturing site from the National Priorities List, due to proximity of Cherokee Nation tribal members to the TFM site and due to concern with exposure to additional smelter-related waste near to, but unrelated to the site.

Tar Creek Superfund Site, Ottawa County, Oklahoma
On June 15, R6 hosted a webinar with the site stakeholders to discuss the draft Human Health Risk Assessment for Tar Creek OU5. The purpose of the webinar was to provide an overview and an opportunity for early questions and discussion midway through the review period. During the webinar, EPA stepped through the exposure scenarios, the exposure parameters, the overall findings related to potential risks. R6 continues to refine its implementation of EPA's Chat and Off-Site Rules imposed by the ROD. R6, R7, OGC, and OSRTI held conference calls on June 11, June 16 - June 17 to discuss options on Offsite Rule compliance for the Tar Creek site. The group discussed options to comply with the ROD and the Offsite Rule that would best meet legal requirements and mitigate risks. These discussions are in preparation for a report to Peter Wright on progress as requested in the June 9, OLEM briefing.

Oiltanking, Galveston, Texas
On June 16, R6 and TCEQ received a letter from USACE Galveston District requesting that a multi-agency team conduct a comprehensive review of historical and current information related to former waste units located at Oiltanking (formerly Union Carbide) which is now being proposed for a dredging project along the Texas City Ship Channel. R6 and TCEQ staff have previously reviewed the information, provided feedback and recommendations.

Mosaic Fertilizer, Uncle Sam Plant, Convent, Louisiana
Mosaic has agreed to participate in Technical Workgroup discussions with the Federal Government's Subject Matter Experts, LDEQ's geotechnical experts, Mosaic's geotechnical consultant (Ardaman & Associates), and Uncle Sam's stack operations managers. The goal is to encourage free and open discussion and debate in order to achieve consensus on the safest path forward for continued use of Uncle Sam's Gyp Stack System. The first meeting was held June 17.

Denka Performance Elastomer, LaPlace, Louisiana
R6 posted community air monitoring data to May 17, on the public website. By the week of June 22, EPA expects a property access agreement with DuPont to be finalized allowing completion of SPod installation. EPA continues to monitor the ambient air using SPods around the Denka facility in LaPlace, La. From June 1 - June14, four canisters were triggered for collection. Analyses of air samples collected from May 14 - June 14 are pending.

Quality Assurance Plan Automated Notices, R6
R6 has been working on updating the Quality Assurance document tracking system (QTRAK). In April, R6 started refining the system so that automated messages of QA documents soon to expire would be sent out to project officers and subject matter experts both 30 and 60 days prior to the expiration. This update will negate the need for internally generated emails to be sent. To reduce the amount of emails, the message was further refined so that each individual will get all documents listed within an excel spreadsheet in one email for those expiring within 30 days and another email for those expiring within 60 days.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

New Mexico SIP Revision for Repeal of Particulate Matter Standards, New Mexico
By June 30, R6 anticipates approving a New Mexico SIP revision for the repeal of particulate matter emission standards for lime manufacturing plants in New Mexico.

Hospital, Medical, and Infectious Waste Incinerator, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Albuquerque
By June 30, R6 anticipates approving a proposed action to accept CAA section 111(d) negative declarations for Hospital, Medical, and Infectious Waste Incinerator (HMIWI) units in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Albuquerque-Bernalillo County, New Mexico.

June 25	US Army Corps of Engineers Southwestern Division Virtual Change of Command (Virtual)
July 13	Texas Water 2020 Conference (Virtual)

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Region 7

Hot Topics

R7 Began Superfund Cleanup Action at the B&T Metals Site (Gering, Nebraska)
This week Region 7 began a time critical Superfund removal to cleanup lead contaminated soils at the B&T Metals site in Nebraska.
Description:

- The Nebraska Department of Energy and Environment referred the B&T Metals site to Region 7 on May 14, 2019 for evaluation into the nature and extent of contamination.
- The site operated as a scrap yard for at least 60 years until operations ceased in 2015.
- Soil sampling events conducted by NDEE and Region 7 identified site-wide lead contamination. Region 7 also sampled adjacent residential properties in November 2019, but those levels were below levels of concern.
- R7 began the removal action the week of June 5, 2020 to excavate and dispose of contaminated soils and the cleanup is expected to continue for the next several weeks.
- R7 has been in communication with local response personnel and the county health department to coordinate the start of this removal action and one On Scene Coordinator is in the field overseeing the contractors conducting the cleanup.

R7 Rescinds Remaining Partial Stop Work Orders on Superfund Residential Lead Site Cleanup Work
This week R7 rescinded partial stop work orders at three Superfund lead sites allowing for residential cleanup to resume that were delayed due to COVID-19.
Description:

- R7 rescinded the remaining partial stop work orders on Superfund lead remediation contracts that have been in place due to COVID.
- Partial stop orders were rescinded at Southwest Jefferson County Mining (Missouri), Former United Zinc (Kansas), and the Oronogo-Duenweg (Missouri) Superfund sites.
- In addition, a Notice to Proceed has been issued for a new Remedial Action at the Southwest Jefferson County Mining site under the Remedial Acquisition Framework contract. The selected contractor, EA, is beginning startup work immediately.
- All contractors at these Superfund sites are operating under updated health and safety plans to address risk from COVID.
- R7 has updated site health and safety plans to address risk from COVID.
- Site oversight is being conducted with outposted staff that do not require travel.

R7 Completed the Five-Year Review of the Parkview Well Superfund Site (Grand Island, Nebraska)
R7 completed the second five-year review report for the Parkview Well Superfund Site in Grand Island, Nebraska and found that the remedy remains protective of human health and the environment.
Description:

- The Parkview Well Superfund site in Grand Island, Nebraska was listed on the National Priorities List in 2006 and includes two volatile organic compound groundwater plumes from an industrial facility.

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- A potentially responsible party could not be determined; therefore, R7, with the assistance of the Nebraska Department of Energy and Environment, has performed the investigation and remediation efforts at the site.
- The long-term remedy for the site included extraction wells, groundwater treatment, in-place chemical oxidation, vapor intrusion sampling, monitoring, institutional controls to restrict use of groundwater, and provision of alternate water supplies for affected residences.
- Cleanup, operation and maintenance activities, and monitoring are ongoing.
- Private well sampling and provision of alternate water supplies to affected residences ended in 2008.
- In-place chemical oxidation injections ceased in 2014; however, due to the increasing concentrations of contaminants identified at some on-site monitoring wells, R7 has conducted two additional investigations.
- These investigations identified a residual source area located underneath the building and in-place chemical oxidation injections will resume to address this contamination underneath the building.
- The second Five-Year Review completed this week found that the remedy at the site is protective of human health and the environment. Institutional controls are in place that prohibit the use of or contact with the groundwater for drinking purposes.

R7 Laboratory Will Analyze Drinking Water Samples from Santee Sioux Nation
The R7 laboratory will analyze drinking water samples from the Santee Sioux Nation for manganese.
Description:

- The laboratory's quality assurance staff fast tracked the Quality Assurance Project Plan.
- Chemist will meet 10-day turnaround time.
- There will be multiple analytical requests (one each week) for 4 weeks, then one each month - depending on findings.

R7 Issued a Press Release Noting that the EPA Reached Settlement with The Powder Shop Inc. in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, for Alleged Hazardous Waste Violations
A press release was issued noting that Region 7 reached a settlement with The Powder Shop Inc. to resolve alleged violations of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.
Description:

- The Cedar Rapids, Iowa business performs custom and industrial metal coating, metal sandblasting, and metal grit blasting. These activities generate waste that is considered hazardous by federal standards.
- The press release was in the Cedar Rapids Gazette: [HYPERLINK "https://www.thegazette.com/subject/news/powder-shop-epa-settlement-hazardous-waste-violations-20200617"]

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Nothing to Report.

Region 8

Hot Topics

EPA R8 Plans Outreach and Possible Tribal Consultation with the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe regarding the White Mesa Mill regarding Compliance, Permitting, and Licensing Matters
The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe has several concerns with the White Mesa Mill Facility. The White Mesa Mill's Radioactive Material License is being amended to allow receipt of additional waste sources. Utah is amending the White Mesa Mill's groundwater permit to authorize an increase to allowable levels of several constituents and the comment period has been extended to July 10. R8 will review and update all potential White Mesa Mill issues and concerns that the Tribe may have where EPA may have a regulatory or enforcement role.

EPA R8 and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) met with Evraz Rocky Mountain Steel Mill and Harsco Metals and Minerals regarding electric arc furnace (EAF) Slag
On Thursday, June 18, EPA and CDPHE met with EVRAZ and Harsco and discussed the findings and technical review of recent EAF slag sampling and next steps. EAF slag from EVRAZ is being sold/marketed by Harsco for residential use as a landscaping and driveway material. The slag contains elevated concentrations of some metals.

EPA R8 Issued an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) with the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara (MHA) Nation to Address Stormwater Construction Violations at the Lakeview Aggregates Facility in North Dakota
On June 17, NPDES Enforcement issued an AOC with the MHA Nation to address Clean Water Act NPDES violations at Lakeview Aggregates, a decommissioned sand and gravel facility adjacent to Lake Sakakawea. R8 offered extensive compliance assistance to the MHA Nation. The AOC requires the MHA Nation to comply with the Construction Stormwater General Permit, including all requirements relating to developing and implementing a SWPPP, implementing BMPs, conducting inspections, implementing corrective actions, and submitting a Notice of Termination once the facility is stabilized.

EPA R8 Issued a Notice of Planned Enforcement Action to the Two Medicine Water System (Respondent) regarding the Town of Browning Public Water System located on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana
The Notice of Planned Enforcement Action letter was issued on June 15, to inform the Blackfeet Tribe of the EPA's plan to offer an opportunity to confer about the violation and negotiate an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) with the Respondent to return the system to compliance. Alleged violation includes failure to correct the Weasel Head Storage Tank significant deficiency. The R8 Water Division provided the System extensive compliance assistance prior to the SDWA Enforcement Section initiating this enforcement action. The AOC will require the Respondent to provide a plan and schedule to correct the significant deficiency by replacing the structurally unsound Weasel Head Storage Tank.

EPA R8 Issued a CWA 404 Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) with James Hein to Address Illegal Fill Affecting the Yellowstone River near Worden, Montana. On June 12, R8 issued an AOC with James Hein to address illegal fill affecting the Yellowstone River in Yellowstone County, MT. Investigations by Montana agencies and the Army Corps of Engineers revealed

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approximately 1500 ft. of shoreline impacted by unpermitted fill work on the site. Under the AOC, Mr. Hein will submit a plan to EPA for the remediation and mitigation of the impacts to waters of the United States.

EPA R8 Issued Five Notice of Refusal of Admissions (NORAs) and Two Pesticide Advisory Letters

The Advisory Letters were issued to companies making false pesticide claims in relation to COVID-19: Mile High Disinfectant Services and Safe On-site Sanitation. The NORAs were issued to the following companies with alleged pesticides imports violations: NFX Hypo Clean LLC; Akida Holdings, LLC; Fancy Feathers Maid; Rocky Mountain Vacuum Brokers, LLC; and Hubbard Ag Science.

R8 Plans to Public Notice our Intention to Issue or Waive Seven 401 Certifications

To eliminate any confusion between requirements of the current 401 Rule and the impending 401 Rule, R8 plans to public notice and issue any 401 certifications that are pending. The notices will be posted on EPA's website beginning the week of June 22. And will be available for public comment for 30 days. Draft certifications will be shared with HQ for review for 2 weeks prior to issuing the certification.

Barr Milton Watershed Association to receive $25,000 Urban Waters grant for outreach communications to improve stormwater quality and encourage water conservation

The Barr Milton Watershed Association will receive $25,000 to fund a communications effort to improve stormwater quality. Among other issues, the messages will support the reduction of harmful algal blooms (HABs) through reduced nutrients in stormwater and EPA's Water Reuse Action Plan.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

June 25	Reopening America, Teleconference call to Chambers of Commerce in R8 States: North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and Utah.

Region 9

Hot Topics

Resuming On-site Inspections in Hawaii
After receiving authorization from Assistant Administrator of OECA, our field staff in Honolulu conducted priority FIFRA and SPCC compliance inspections on Oahu. Hawaii has one of the lowest number of COVID-19 positive test results of any state. These are R9 first on-site inspections since mid-March.

Updated Qlik Analysis of California PFAS Data to include Q3, 2019

We completed an update of the EPA Qlik analysis of California Quarterly PFAS data. With three quarters of data included in the analysis, some trends are starting to emerge. We will discuss the analysis with Waterboard staff and EPA PFAS workgroups in the near future. The analysis can be accessed by all EPA staff in the EPA_Region9 Qlik stream and is titled "CA PFAS Data Q1-Q3 2019."

PFAS Discussions with Danish Water Technology Alliance

On June 17, managers from WTR and LCARD met with Lasse Thomassen and Anne-Louise Fregerslev Christensen of the Danish Water Technology Alliance, based at the Danish Consulate in Santa Clara Valley, California. The discussion focused on PFAS effects on water conservation, recycling, and drought management in EPA R9.

Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation
On June 15, EPA received an email from the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation requesting to enter into a repayment agreement for their $50,180 debt to EPA. This debt covers expenditures for work that the Tribe did not complete under their GAP grant workplan. Fort McDowell explained that the Covid-19 pandemic has strained the Tribe's resources and that they could not repay the entire amount at once. The Grants Branch is working with ORC to draft a repayment agreement and will be sending it to President Bernadine Burnette for her signature soon.

Laboratory Assistance to Outer Pacific Island Water Utilities
Last week, we facilitated a call between the Hawaii Department of Health Laboratory, Guam EPA and CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality to discuss the provision of analytical services to water utilities during COVID-19. American Samoa, Guam and CNMI lack organic and radiochemical analytical capabilities and have relied on contract laboratories on the mainland. Limited mainland flights and revised flight routes have resulted in regulatory compliance samples not meeting the requisite temperature and holding times. The discussion provided an opportunity to address current circumstances under COVID-19. We are also discussing a mechanism to address these challenges in the future.

Three TRI Webinars
With the 1 July 2020, TRI Reporting deadline fast approaching, we held two TRI Basic Concepts training courses and an Advanced Concepts course. Each of the three webinars were free to participants and we had more 150 registered each day (450+ total). The Basic Concepts course covered how to determine if a facility is required to report, exempt activities, and how to complete the TRI form. The Advanced Concepts covered recent changes to TRI, how to avoid common reporting errors, and a demonstration of the TRI reporting system (TRI-MEweb).

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Border Public Information Meeting
On June 25, RA Busterud and AA David Ross will lead a virtual public information meeting to discuss EPA's plans to implement water infrastructure projects in the San Diego/Tijuana border region, per the provisions of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Trade agreement. The meeting will be structured after the successful June 2nd Border Stakeholder meeting.

Virtual Tribal Consultation Townhall
On June 23, R9 RTOC co-chairs will convene a virtual Tribal Consultation Townhall with tribes in the Region to review Consultation policy, share successes and lessons learned, and discuss questions and comments. RA Busterud will provide welcoming remarks. OITA AA Chad McIntosh and AIEO Director Scott Mason will also participate.

Public Notice for UIC Permits
On June 22, we will open a 30-day public comment period on a Class V Underground Injection Control (UIC) permit for the Puna Geothermal Venture (PGV) facility located in Pahoa, Hawai'i. The permit would authorize continued operation of five wells for injecting fluids generated by the production of geothermal energy at the PGV power plant, and the conversion to injection of up to 11 additional proposed geothermal production wells during the 10-year term. 2) Also on June 22, we will open a 30-day public comment period on a Class III Underground Injection Control (UIC) permit for the construction and operation of a solution mining facility to conduct in-situ borate recovery operations in San Bernardino County. If approved, the mining facility will include 450 injection and recovery wells within a 400-acre wellfield and surface operations to separate and process the borate mineral. The project is proposed to operate over a 25-year period, with mine operations implemented in three successive phases, followed by groundwater rinsing and restoration.

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Region 10

Hot Topics

Hilcorp Postpones Work Related to Exploratory Drilling in Lower Cook Inlet (AK)
On June 11, Hilcorp Alaska informed R10 that the company has decided to delay the exploration schedule for lower Cook Inlet. Work originally scheduled for later this year is now planned for some time in 2021. Exploratory drilling, which will require an EPA air permit as well as NPDES coverage, is now planned for 2022. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has suspended regular interagency meetings with EPA and other agencies until Hilcorp activity resumes in Cook Inlet.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Proposed Modification of NPDES General Permit for Offshore Seafood Discharges in AK and ESA Consultation
R10 is re-initiating Endangered Species Act consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in response to a request from the Freezer Longline Coalition to modify the NPDES General Permit for Offshore Seafood Processors in Alaska to allow for seasonal discharge within wintering critical habitat for the spectacled eider. Discharges within eider wintering habitat are currently prohibited in the June 2019 re-issued permit. R10 is pursuing a permit modification that considers the economic viability of the hook and line fishing industry while also ensuring that spectacled eiders and their critical habitat are protected.

R10 Proposes Deleting Three Superfund Sites from the NPL
R10 is proposing to delete two complete sites and one partial site from the National Priorities List. Northside Landfill, Spokane, WA; American Crossarm & Conduit Co., Chehalis, WA; and partial deletion of soils at Queen City Farms, Maple Valley, WA (groundwater remains on the NPL). All remedial measures have been implemented and cleanup levels met. A Federal Register Notice is planned for publication in July.

R10 Reviews Olympic Regional Clean Air Agency Permit Program (WA)
On June 15 - June16, the R10 conducted a virtual review of ORCAA's Part 70 Title V air permits program. During the review, R10 provided comments on several major source operating permits as well as ORCAA's resources, finances and implementing rules. A draft report will be provided to ORCAA for their comment in late July. This report includes a schedule for program improvements. This report will be finalized by the end of the fiscal year.

ATSDR PFAS Biomonitoring at Airway Heights, WA
ATSDR has posted the Airway Heights community-level summary test results for seven PFAS compounds on their website. Personally identifiable results for the 333 individual participants in the biomonitoring study don't appear in the report. ATSDR continues to evaluate exposure assessment data such as participant age and location. Currently all residents who had been exposed to PFAS above EPA's Lifetime Health Advisory have access to alternative water sources. Airway Heights is near Fairchild Air Force Base outside of Spokane, WA.

ORD Starts Study of PFAS in Arctic Lake
In response to a December 2019 request by the North Slope Borough and Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope for PFAS sampling of Imikpuk Lake, ORD has developed a study plan and will soon

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begin analysis of water, sediment and fish samples previously collected by the University of Alaska. The Lake, which is near the former site of the Naval Arctic Research Lab and airstrip, was tested for PFAS by the Navy in 2017. PFOA and PFOS levels were found to be above EPA's Lifetime Health Advisory level and the Navy subsequently posted signs cautioning against consumption of the water, which had historically been used as an alternate water source.

EPA-Environment Canada Statement of Cooperation Working Group Meeting
On Monday June 22, R10 will co-host, with Environment Canada and Climate Change, the "virtual" summer meeting of the EPA-ECCC Statement of Cooperation Working Group. Participants include representatives from ECCC, EPA, Puget Sound Partnership, the Washington Department of Ecology, the British Columbia Ministry of Environment, Northwest Straits Commission, Salish Sea Institute at Western Washington University, and the Coast Salish Gathering Steering Committee.

R10 Presents at Washington Lakes Citizen Science Meeting
On June 26, R10 staff will present at the Washington Lakes Meeting. The presentation will focus on identifying non-native plant species in lakes and how to identify harmful algal blooms in lakes. The goal of the lakes program is to provide education materials and background on lake management issues, including identifying problems and employing Best Management Practices to reduce impacts on lakes. Next steps include possibly forming a more active scientist science group in Washington, on par with Region 1 efforts. This meeting is being organized together with the Washington Department of Ecology.

R10 Agriculture Advisor Participates (virtually) in Idaho Cattle Association Meeting
On June 22, R10 Agriculture Advisor will meet (virtually) with the Feeder Council of the Idaho Cattle Association. The Idaho Cattle Association is holding their summer meeting in Burley, ID. The agriculture advisor will provide general updates on the Navigable Waters Protection Rule, the Idaho NPDES CAFO general permit, and EPA HQ related COVID-19 updates that are applicable to the beef cattle sector.

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Office of Air and Radiation

Hot Topics

- **Packages for Signature:**
  - Determinations of Light-duty Vehicle Alternative Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards for Small Volume Manufacturers (Notice)
  - Iron & Steel Foundries Risk and Technology Review (Final Rule)
  - Texas Regional Haze and Interstate Visibility Transport FIP (Final Rule)

- **Packages at OMB for Review:**
  - Biogenic CO2 (Proposed Rule: RECEIVED February 24)
  - Control of Air Pollution from Aircraft and Aircraft Engines: Proposed GHG Emission Standards and Test Procedures (Proposed Rule: RECEIVED May 1)
  - 2021 RFS Rule (Proposed Rule: RECEIVED May 13)
  - Amendments Related to Marine Diesel Engine Emission Standards (Final Rule: RECEIVED May 15)
  - Oil and Gas Sector Reconsideration (Final Rule: RECEIVED June 2)
  - Oil and Gas Sector Review (Final Rule: RECEIVED June 2)
  - Ozone NAAQS (Proposed Rule: RECEIVED June 11)

- **Packages Heading to OMB Soon**
  - Plantwide Applicability Limitation (Final Guidance)

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Central States Air Resource Agencies Association (CenSARA)
Next week, Anne Idsal will speak to CenSARA to provide and overview of OAR activities.

U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Next week, Anne Idsal will speak to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Energy and Environment Committee to provide an overview of OAR activities.

Publication of Methane Challenge Data (Calendar Year 2018)
Next week, EPA anticipates publishing the 2018 Methane Challenge Data. The new data shows that from 2016 to 2018, oil and natural gas companies that participated in EPA's Natural Gas STAR Methane Challenge Program reduced methane emissions equivalent to over 5 million metric tons of carbon dioxide– all through voluntary actions to reduce emissions from key sources across their operations. More information about the Methane Challenge Partners, their commitments, and their achievements to date are available at: [HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/natural-gas-star-program/methane-challenge-partners"].

Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention

Hot Topics

COVID-19 Updates:

List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2
This past week, OCSPP added 3 new products to List N, bringing the total to 431.

COVID-19 Related Pesticide Applicator Certification Memo
OCSPP released a memo addressing reported impacts on the training and certification of pesticide applicators under the Certification of Pesticide Applicators rule. It would allow use of flexibilities if not likely to significantly diminish the competency of applicators of restricted use pesticides; flexibilities also will not undermine the future of the certification program.

Electrostatic Sprayer Guidance
Several parties have approached OCSPP seeking to add electrostatic spray methods of application to antimicrobial product labels, for disinfecting large indoor spaces. OCSPP is preparing guidance for registrants on the information needed for expedited reviews to add electrostatic sprayer directions to List N registrations.

Status of Product Testing of Human Coronavirus
OCSPP's laboratories at Fort Meade, MD are currently testing 25 List N products. The laboratories have completed formulation analysis of 21 of the 25 products, and tested 17 products for efficacy against a surrogate coronavirus. No virus has been recovered from six of the tests, meaning the tested products are effective against the surrogate. Results for the remaining 11 products will be available soon and procedures for transmitting results are being developed.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

TSCA Fourth Anniversary and Upcoming Actions
June 22, marks four years since passage of the Lautenberg Act amendments. OCSPP will celebrate with a blog by AA Dunn summarizing accomplishments since 2016, and 2020 priorities; a social media campaign via OCSPP's Twitter account in which employees tell why they work on TSCA; and a June 24, morning keynote address by AA Dunn at the "TSCA Reform -- Four Years Later" virtual conference hosted by the Environmental Law Institute, Bergeson & Campbell, P.C., and the George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health. DAA David Fischer, OPPT OD Yvette Collazo, and OPPT DOD Tala Henry will also appear on panels later in the conference.

Long Chain PFAC SNUR
The week of June 22, EPA hopes to announce a final rule giving EPA authority to review and, as needed restrict or prohibit before they could be manufactured, sold, or imported, products containing certain *long-chain* perfluoroalkyl carboxylate (LCPFAC) and perfluoroalkyl sulfonate chemical substances as a surface coating. The rule has a statutory deadline of June 22.

National Pollinator Week June 22 – June 28
The week of June 22, Administrator Wheeler will sign the agency's first-ever proclamation designating June 22 – June 28 as National Pollinator Week. EPA will also renew its MOU with the Pollinator

Partnership to facilitate cooperation and coordination to reduce the likelihood of adverse pesticide effects on pollinators.

Workplan on New Approach Methods (NAMs) for Chemical Testing
On June 24, EPA will announce release of the NAMs Workplan, a roadmap for achieving the animal reduction and elimination goals set forth by Administrator Wheeler in 2019. The plan identifies tangible steps to pursue while ensuring that EPA's regulatory, compliance, and enforcement activities, including chemical and pesticide approvals and Agency research, remain fully protective of human health and the environment.

Nootkatone Proposed Decision
Within the next two weeks, EPA will publish the proposed decision on Nootkatone, a new biopesticide active ingredient discovered and developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for future use in insect repellent and pesticide products for protecting people and pets from mosquitoes and ticks. CDC has since transferred the technology to Evolva, which has the pending registration before EPA. If formulated into an insecticide, Nootkatone could be another tool in the fight against insect-borne diseases and the growing levels of insecticide resistance to other products currently on the market. After reviewing public comments, EPA will finalize its decision in July. This is an initial step that could lead to end use products containing Nootkatone being introduced in the US within 2 years.

Endangered Species Act (ESA) Report to Congress
EPA will soon submit the Interagency Working Group's (IWG) second report on ESA consultations for pesticides. The report overviews the IWG's progress in developing recommendations to improve the consultation process ESA requires for pesticide registration and registration review. The report also describes areas of consensus and of ongoing discussion among IWG covered agencies (which include EPA, USDA, DOC, DOI, and CEQ). The report is due no later than June 20.

Action Highlights:

Signed and Pending Publication
- Review of Dust-Lead Post-Abatement Clearance Levels; Proposed Rule
- Methylene Chloride (MC); Final TSCA Risk Evaluation

Going Soon to OMB
- Pesticides; Agricultural Worker Protection Standard; Revision of the Application Exclusion Zone Requirements; Final Rules/Guidance

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Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Hot Topics

- On June 10, OCFO issued guidance on developing multi-year plans for potential consideration at the July 15, Budget Forum. The guidance identifies the multi-year plans offices are to develop and asks lead offices to submit completed plans by June 25. OCFO will brief the Administrator on the plans, provide further guidance on which plans will be featured at the Budget Forum, and prepare summary materials for leadership review.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

- OCFO is scheduled to brief the Associate Deputy Administrator on June 19, regarding the approach to the FY 2022 Budget Forum and meetings with ECOS & NTC leadership. OCFO will share draft invitations/agendas for ECOS/NTC leadership meetings with OCIR and OITA for review.

- As follow up to June 12 Evidence Act Workgroup discussion/feedback, Learning Priority Leads are updating the Priority Questions for discussion with Assistant Deputy Administrator on next steps for decision on June 24. In addition, on June 26, the Deputy Chief Financial Officer and Learning Priority Leads will meet with OMB staff from budget, performance, and evaluation offices on progress in developing EPA's Interim Learning Agenda.

- OMB approved all six EPA FY 2020-2021 Q2 Agency Priority Goal (APG) Action Plan Updates. On June 25, OMB will post federal agency FY 2020-2021 Q1-Q2 APG results on [HYPERLINK "https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.performance.gov%2F&data=02%7C01%7CWeekly_Report_Group%40epa.gov%7C17f2e62f8a474cd8840608d813892b7b%7C88b378b367484867acf976aacbeca6a7%7C0%7C0%7C637280827140465322&sdata=lPdmOGlHIT%2B1psne%2BwJlmhk8hWfH3ANFuNQ%2FuyqIrhs%3D&reserved=0"].

GAO and OIG Audits and Activities

- The following tables summarize new agency GAO and OIG audits and other related activities from since the last weekly report through June 12.

GAO Audits – Week Ending 6/12/2020				
Audit Type	**Title**	**Office**	**Engagement/ Report No.**	**Next Steps/Comments**
Entrance Conference	Federal Use of Facial Recognition Technology	TBD	Engagement Code 104231	The Entrance Conference is scheduled for 6/29/2020.
	SBIR Venture Capital & Fraud, and Waste & Abuse in SBIR and STTR Programs	ORD	Engagement Codes 104352 and 104353	The Entrance Conference is scheduled for 7/6/2020.

OIG Audits – Week Ending 6/12/2020				
Audit #	**Title**	**Status**	**Office**	**Next Steps/Comments**
Project No. OAE-FY20-0234	Internal Controls Established to Implement Programs and Activities Funded under the CARES Act	Project Notification	OCFO	Project Notification issued on 6/10/20. Entrance Conference held on 6/11. OIG expects to complete this evaluation by 7/1.

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Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations

Hot Topics

June 24	Senate Indian Affairs Committee will hold a Legislative hearing on bills including S.3044 on tribal drinking water programs (No EPA witness)

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Ongoing	OCIR inquiry tracking of COVID-19 impacts on agency programs: this past week, managed inquiries re: disinfectant product approvals, Congressional briefing requests.
Ongoing	COVID-19-tracking state and local inquiries of national significance re: grants, fuel waivers, enforcement
Week of June 22	Pollinator Week w/OCSPP
June 22	ORD will be meeting virtually with the R4 states. This meeting is an opportunity for ORD to hear directly from the R4 state environmental agencies about their science priorities and needs, as well as to provide the states with updates on EPA research, including on PFAS treatment and COVID-19 in the areas of exposure, wastewater, and cleaning and disinfection.
June 23	OW WIFIA staff will join R9 and OIR in a meeting with Santa Monica Water Resource Manager Sandy Wang and Rick Valte, Assistant Director of Public Works, to discuss the city's Sustainable Water Master Plan, and the potential for WIFIA support.
June 23	The US Conference of Mayors' Environment Committee will convene virtually.
June 23 – June 24	ORD will be meeting virtually with the ERIS Board. ERIS is the Environmental Research Institute of the States, the research arm of the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS).
June 24	ELI TSCA@4 webinar w/OCSPP
June 25	OCIR is planning to offer an overview of the Miscellaneous Organic Chemical Manufacturing National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (MON) amendment package signed earlier this Month

Hearings

June 23	House Committee on Energy and Commerce will hold a hearing on "Oversight of the Trump Administration's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic."

June 23	Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs' Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management will hold a hearing on "Improving Public Service: A Review of Recommendations Made by the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service."
June 24	Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry will hold a legislative hearing to review S. 3894, The Growing Climate Solutions Act of 2020.
June 24	Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources will hold a full committee hearing on the Impact of COVID-19 on Mineral Supply Chains.
June 24	Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs will hold a full committee hearing on "The Role of the Strategic National Stockpile in Pandemic Response.

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Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

Hot Topics

EPA Received an "A" Rating from the Small Business Administration's Office of the National Ombudsman
In May 2020, the Small Business Administration's Office of the National Ombudsman released it [HYPERLINK "https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.sba.gov%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2F2020-06%2F2018_ANNUAL_REPORT_TO_CONGRESS%2520%2528corrected%2529.pdf&data=02%7C01%7CShiffman.Cari%40epa.gov%7C422bb714400542fea98208d813a1f58d%7C88b378b367484867acf976aacbeca6a7%7C0%7C0%7C637280933609348019&sdata=aD9czs73SnarWMGQy9oVBmtmQ2zIY%2BmJLir4ayGzKCA%3D&reserved=0"]. Every year, the SBA Office of the National Ombudsman provides a report to Congress highlighting its accomplishments and issuing a scorecard rating for Federal agencies regarding their compliance with the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (SBREFA). The Federal agency scores are based on the timeliness and quality of agency responses to comments submitted by small businesses regarding enforcement actions, as well as on each agency's non retaliation policy, compliance assistance, and notification to small businesses about their rights under SBREFA. For the 14th year in a row, EPA received an A rating; in fact, EPA received an A across the board in every category. The Director of the Office of Civil Enforcement is the contact for the agency on the annual report and coordinates with EPA's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization.

Rocky Mountain Arsenal Superfund Site Administrative Complaint
On June 12, R8, working with OECA and OLEM, filed an administrative complaint against the Army/Department of Defense under Section 109 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) for penalties based on the Army's failure to pay EPA oversight costs for the Rocky Mountain Arsenal Superfund site. Under a CERCLA Federal Facility Agreement and a judicial Consent Decree, the Army is legally required to reimburse EPA for costs incurred while performing oversight activities at Rocky Mountain Arsenal. Since fiscal year 2015, the Army has not fully reimbursed EPA for oversight costs, despite having paid EPA oversight costs for the preceding 25 years. In total, the Army owes EPA $4,809,050 in outstanding reimbursement costs for FY2015-2019.

Speaking Engagement on EPA's Enforcement Efforts During COVID-19
On June 17, OECA DAA John Irving spoke on EPA's enforcement efforts during COVID-19 at the virtual Earth and Water Group's Environment, Health, Safety and Security Forum. Attendees included industry compliance managers and their outside counsel.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

June 22	OECA DAA John Irving will speak at a Federalist Society's Environmental Law & Property Rights Practice Group teleforum on "COVID-19 Impacts on Environmental Enforcement & Compliance."

Office of General Counsel

Hot Topics

***Canadian Shipowners Ass'n v. EPA*, Nos. 14-39 & 16-1162 (2nd Cir. June 15)**
On June 15, the Second Circuit denied the Canadian Shipowners Association's petition for panel rehearing or rehearing en banc of an earlier panel decision dismissing its petitions for review as moot. On February 13, 2020, a motions panel of the Second Circuit had granted EPA's Motion to Dismiss as moot two long-stayed petitions filed by the Canadian Shipowners Association challenging EPA's issuance of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Vessel General Permit. The court dismissed the petitions in light of the enactment of the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act, Pub. L. No. 115-282 (2018), now codified in the Clean Water Act section 312(p), 33 U.S.C. § 1322(p). The motions panel also terminated its earlier stay of the effectiveness of the NPDES General Permit as applied to vessels owned by members of the Canadian Shipowners Association. Upon filing its hearing petitions, the dismissal and the lifting of the stay themselves were stayed.

***Puget Soundkeeper Alliance v. EPA*, No. 2:20-cv-907 (W.D. Wash. filed June 11)**
The Puget Soundkeeper Alliance, Columbia Riverkeeper, Spokane Riverkeeper, RE Sources, Pacific Coast Federation of Fisherman's Associations, Institute for Fisheries Resources, and the Makah Indian Tribe filed a complaint in the Western District of Washington. The Plaintiffs challenge both: (1) EPA's final rule withdrawing certain federal human health criteria (HHC) for the State of Washington, which went into effect on June 12, and (2) EPA's May 2019 approval of the State HHC following reconsideration of its prior disapproval. Plaintiffs seek declaratory and injunctive relief and vacatur of both actions. Plaintiffs allege that both actions violate the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) and exceed the Agency's statutory authority. Specifically, they assert that EPA's May 2019 approval violates the CWA and APA because, in pertinent part, the State criteria "are based on inaccurate and arbitrarily selected human health inputs" and EPA's approval of those HHC was contrary to the record before the Agency. With respect to the rule withdrawing the federal HHC, they allege that the withdrawal will result in HHC that fail to protect Washington's designated uses and is thus contrary to the CWA. Finally, they assert that EPA lacked inherent authority to revisit its initial disapproval of Washington's HHC.

New NOI: In a letter dated April 15, a foresting consultant in Alaska sent a 60-day notice of intent to sue EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) alleging that the Agencies violated Section 404 of the Clean Water Act when they failed to enforce permitting requirements on the Matanuska Susitna Borough of Public Works. The NOI claims that the Borough illegally filled designated wetlands without obtaining a 404 permit during the Borough's expansion of a road that the foresting consultant originally built solely for his foresting activities. The NOI alleges that EPA has enforcement authority over discharge/fill activities that occur in designated wetlands without a 404 permit and thus, EPA is obligated to pursue an enforcement case against the Borough.

New NOI: In a letter dated May 21, Environmental and Animal Defense sent a 60-day notice of intent to sue EPA alleging that EPA violated the Endangered Species Act (ESA) when Colorado issued a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for stormwater discharges associated with construction activities. The NOI alleges that EPA has ultimate authority over permits granted through state-delegated programs and thus, EPA is obligated to complete ESA consultation prior to issuance of such permits

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Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Nothing to Report.

Office of International and Tribal Affairs

Hot Topics

Summit of the Americas
The NSC convened a Summit of the Americas PCC to discuss the U.S. leadership in the region when it assumes the chairmanship of the Summit of the Americas in 2021. The triennial Summit of the Americas is the only meeting among all Heads of State and is the sole Western Hemisphere-wide forum to include the leaders of the United States and Canada. Since its inception in 1994, the Summit has produced regional initiatives related to economic competitiveness, crime and terrorism, energy security, education, democracy and human rights. Vice President Pence led the U.S. delegation to the VIII Summit in Peru in April 2018, and offered to host the IX Summit in the U.S. in 2021. This will be an opportunity to highlight the U.S. regional agenda, including COVID-19 response, economic recovery, and defense of democracy.

US-UK Free Trade Agreement
The U.S. and UK are scheduled to begin the second round of negotiations next week via virtual platforms. The first round of negotiations were held in May and included discussions on all potential chapters of the US-UK free trade agreement. EPA (OITA, OCSPP, OAR, OGC) are involved in the negotiations for several of the chapter texts, including environment, technical barriers to trade, sanitary and phytosanitary standards, investment, procurement, good regulatory practices, sectoral annexes, and legal dispute settlement. USTR has prepared draft text based on the USMCA language, but USTR and EPA are not proposing text for a chemicals annex.

OECD/Japan Marine Litter Workshop
OECD and Japan hosted a virtual two-day workshop to take stock of policies and approaches aimed at reducing marine litter. OECD facilitated the event and convened experts from G20 countries, emerging economies, private industry, international organizations, NGOs and academia. EPA (OITA, OLEM, OW), NOAA, and State Department attended the workshop. EPA gave a presentation on US domestic and international waste management and marine litter initiatives, including Trash Free Waters. Mike Witt also gave a presentation on behalf of the International Council of the Chemical Association and the Alliance to End Plastic Waste. Participants discussed ideas about how to advance efforts that reduce marine litter through policies and initiatives at both the national and global levels, including through the G20.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

June 26 Administrator Wheeler and OITA AA Chad McIntosh will participate virtually in the CEC Council Session with the Ministers of Canada and Mexico.

Office of the Land and Emergency Management

Hot Topics

Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR)

- **a)** CCR Phase 2 proposed rule (package 1) – On October 15, 2019, the public comment period ended; OLEM is reviewing the comments.
- **b)** CCR permitting NPRM (package 3) – The public comment period ends July 19.
- **c)** CCR litigation packages (package 2, parts A and B) – On June 15, OP received the Part A final rulemaking package for OMB review. For the Part B final rule, we anticipate a draft package coming to the OLEM IO for review next week.
- **d)** CCR Legacy Units ANPRM - Package expected to be sent to OP for OMB review soon.

Modernizing Ignitable Liquids Determinations Final Rule
On June 8, the Administrator signed the final rule; it is in the queue for FR publication soon.

PCB Extraction NPRM
OLEM is working on the package and we anticipate it going to OP in June for OMB review.

Subpart J Monitoring Rule
Option selection was held May 7. The workgroup will proceed with developing the rulemaking documents.

FY 2019 Superfund Five-Year Report to Congress
On June 8, OP submitted the report to OCIR for OMB review.

Ongoing major Superfund NPL sites
We are working with R2 on Maywood, Woodbrook Road, and Rolling Knolls; R3 on Barefoot; R4 on Oak Ridge, Birmingham 35th Ave., and Petroleum Products Corporation; Region 5 on Sandoval; and R10 on Portland Harbor, Quendall Terminal, Bradford Island, and East Waterway.

CERCLA 108(b) Financial Assurance (next three sectors)
The public comment period for the Industry 2 (Petroleum and Coal) rule ended on February 21. On May 6, an options selection meeting for 108(b) additional classes was held. The public comment period for the Industry 3 (Chemical Manufacturing) NPRM ended May 6.

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

National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) PFAS Destruction and Disposal Interim Guidance
The draft document should go to the OLEM IO for review soon. Following the Action Development Process, formal workgroup closure should occur between June 18 – June 23. The final document should go to OP to initiate interagency review through OMB on June 24.

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Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

OLEM Monthly Business Review
This meeting is scheduled for June 18.

America Recycles Initiative
OLEM will brief the Administrator on June 24.

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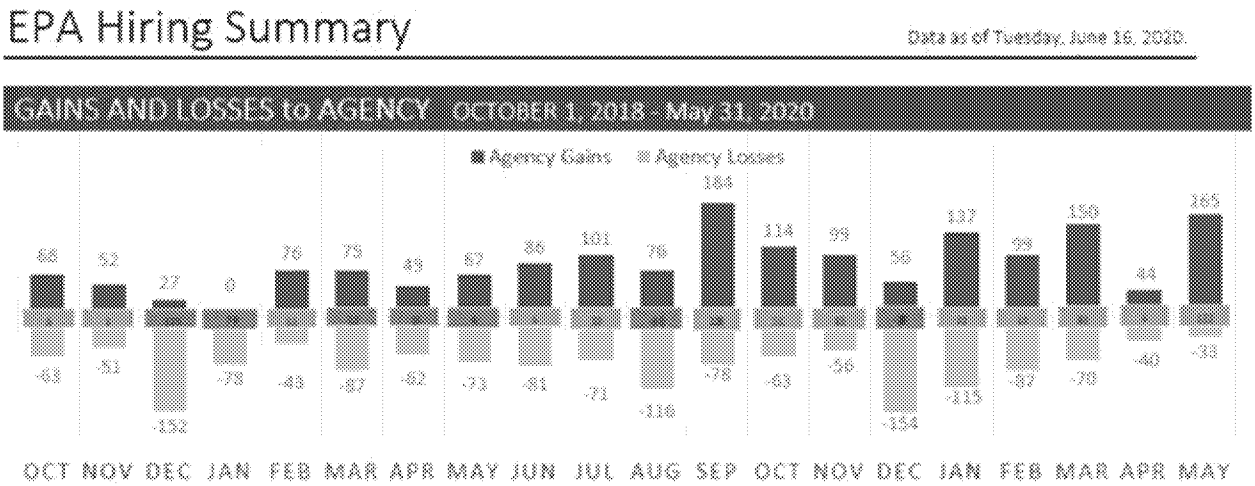
Office of Mission Support

Hot Topics

Agency External Hires
With the focus on high priority hiring, we are still seeing an increase in the volume of applicants and new hires to the agency. EPA has gained 295 external hires from October 1, 2019 - June 16, 2020.

- Since October 1, 2019, except for December, more employees onboarded per month than left the agency.
- March and May of FY20 gained more than double compared to March and May of FY19.
- Already for June we have onboarded 57 external hires (95 total with internal hires) and another 60 are expected to onboard by June 21.
- To date in FY20, the agency has hired over 900 employees.



Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

National Honor Awards Ceremony
The National Honor Awards Ceremony will be rescheduled from July 16, - August (the specific date TBD). The event will be held in the Map Room at the Federal Triangle Complex in Washington, DC. To celebrate the winners in more ways than one, the ceremony will be a combination of in-person and virtual participation. In addition, the ceremony will also include special presentations from guest speakers.

LGBT Pride Month Celebration
June is Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Pride Month. This is a time to celebrate the community and to honor the history of the LGBTQ movement. OMS will host a virtual LGBT Pride Month Celebration from 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm on June 24. Additional details about this event are forthcoming.

Office of Policy

Hot Topics

Public Meeting for economy-wide model: On June 23, the Science Advisory Board will complete its final review of the Office of Policy's draft economy-wide model, which was developed to allow the agency to capture how the effects of regulation ripple through the economy.

Final updates to guidance portal: By June 27, the agency is required as per Executive Order 13891 to complete its review and update of the agency guidance portal, which may include reinstating some of the previously rescinded documents.

Spring Regulatory Agenda: Next week, the Office of Policy expects to release the Spring 2020 *Unified Agenda of Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions*, which provides updates to the public about upcoming regulatory activity.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Active Interagency Reviews from OMB	
Subject	**OMB Due Date**
USDA/FS NPRM (Pass-back): Oil and Gas Resources	06/18/2020
DOC/USBC ANPRM: Foreign Trade Regulations (FTR): Request for Public Comments on the overall impact of the removal of Electronic Export Information (EEI) filing requirements for shipments between the United States and Puerto Rico	06/18/2020
CEQ FRM (Pass-back): Update to the Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act	06/19/2020
DOC/NIST Special Publication: Control Baselines for Information Systems and Organizations, Special Publication 800-53B	06/19/2020
DOC/NOAA NPRM: Implementation of Provisions of the Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Enforcement Act of 2015 and the Ensuring Access to Pacific Fisheries Act	06/22/2020
DOC/BIS FRM: Implementation of Certain New Controls on Emerging Technologies Agreed at Wassenaar Arrangement 2019 Plenary	06/23/2020

Documents Sent to the OFR from June 11-17, 2020		
FRL #	**Title**	**Date Sent to FR**
10010-76-Region 7	Air Plan Approval; Missouri and Kansas; Determination of Attainment for the Jackson County, Missouri 1-hour Sulfur Dioxide Nonattainment Area and Redesignation of the Wyandotte County, Kansas Unclassifiable Area to Attainment/Unclassifiable	06-17-2020
10011-19-Region 7	Air Plan Approval; Iowa; Air Quality Implementation Plan-Muscatine Sulfur Dioxide Nonattainment Area and Start-up, Shutdown, Malfunction SIP Call Withdrawal	06-17-2020
10010-82-OCSPP	Receipt of Several Pesticide Petitions Filed for Residues of Pesticide Chemicals in or on Various Commodities (May 2020)	06-16-2020

10010-84-OCSPP	Pesticide Product Registration; Receipt of Applications for New Active Ingredients	06-16-2020
10010-85-OCSPP	Pesticide Product Registration; Receipt of Applications for New Uses (May 2020)	06-16-2020
10010-53-Region 8	Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Wyoming; Regional Haze 5-Year Progress Report State Implementation Plan	06-15-2020
10010-36-OAR	Granting Petitions to Add 1-bromopropane (also known as 1-BP) to the List of Hazardous Air Pollutants	06-15-2020
10010-79-OCSPP	Certain New Chemicals; Receipt and Status Information for May 2020	06-15-2020
10010-97-OLEM	Proposed Information Collection Request; Comment Request; Brownfields Program – Accomplishment Reporting (Renewal)	06-15-2020
10011-01-ORD	Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC) Chemical Safety for Sustainability and Health and Environmental Risk Assessment Subcommittee Meeting – June 2020; Correction	06-15-2020
10011-13-OAR	Extension of Comment Period and Public Hearing for Increasing Consistency and Transparency in Considering Benefits and Costs in the Clean Air Act Rulemaking Process	06-15-2020
10006-65-OCSPP	2-Propenoic acid, homopolymer, ester with á-methyl-ù-hydroxypoly(oxy-1,2-ethanediyl) and á-[2,4,6-tris(1phenylethyl)phenyl]-ù-hydroxypoly(oxy-1,2-ethanediyl), graft, sodium salt; Tolerance Exemption	06-12-2020
10007-73-OCSPP	Tetraethyl Orthosilicate; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance	06-12-2020
10009-25-OCSPP	Cyflumetofen; Pesticide Tolerances	06-12-2020
10009-36-OCSPP	Formic Acid and Sodium Formate; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance	06-12-2020
10009-83-OCSPP	Notice of Public Meetings and Request for Nomination of Ad Hoc Expert Reviewers (September 15-18, 2020)	06-12-2020
10010-41-OCSPP	Cancellation Order for Certain Pesticide Registrations and Amendments to Terminate Uses	06-12-2020
10010-49-OCSPP	Octamethylcyclotetra- siloxane (D4); Manufacturer Request for Risk Evaluation Under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA); Notice of Availability and Request for Comments	06-12-2020
10010-55-Region 7	Air Plan Approval; Missouri; Control of Emissions from Industrial Surface Coating Operations	06-12-2020
10010-90-Region 1	Air Plan Approval; New Hampshire; Single Source Order for PSI Molded Plastics	06-11-2020
10010-93-Region 1	Air Plan Approval; Rhode Island; Reasonably Available Control Technology for the 2008 and 2015 Ozone Standards	06-11-2020

Office of Research and Development

Hot Topics

Covid-19 Research

ORD Scientist Serves as Expert Reviewer for SARS-CoV-2 Emergency Response Validation Protocol
The [HYPERLINK "https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.aoac.org%2Fabout-aoac-international%2F&data=02%7C01%7CBhandari.Pradnya%40epa.gov%7Cd7e21ac794854c19ab1b08d8139bcaa4%7C88b378b367484867acf976aacbeca6a7%7C0%7C0%7C637280907120378265&sdata=jP5NDaMCwxgDdqOnEZeC%2B2Or36EObBAt%2FaJR4woui9o%3D&reserved=0"] invited Dr. Sanjiv Shah to serve as an expert reviewer for their SARS-CoV-2 Emergency Response Validation Protocol. The AOAC Research Institute proposes to validate molecular methods and Test-Kits that detect SARS CoV-2 on environmental surfaces. The successful methods are granted Emergency Use Performance Tested Method^{SM} status.

ORD Researchers Contribute to EPA's Web Page on Carcass Management in Response to COVID-19
EPA and USDA developed public content for EPA's website "[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/agriculture/carcass-management-non-diseased-animals-response-coronavirus-outbreak-covid-19"]" that presents options for managing large quantities of animal carcasses resulting from the COVID-19 outbreaks at food production facilities and subsequent facility shutdowns. The information emphasizes reducing potential human exposures to chemical and biological threats from decaying animal carcasses as well as potential environmental damage resulting from managing large quantities of animal mortalities. Much of the information is based on a recently published [HYPERLINK "https://cfpub.epa.gov/si/si_public_record_report.cfm?Lab=NHSRC&dirEntryId=335655&fed_org_id=1253&subject=Homeland%20Security%20Research&view=desc&sortBy=pubDateYear&showCriteria=1&count=25&searchall=%27indoor%20outdoor%20decontamination%27"] completed by ORD in collaboration with OLEM and USDA. The assessment evaluates different disposal technologies and their potential threat to human health and the environment. Several program offices including the Office of the Administrator's Agricultural Coordinator reviewed the information.

Continuing Wastewater Monitoring Efforts for SARS-CoV-2
ORD scientists are continuing their efforts for coronavirus wastewater surveillance. This week ORD is presenting the wastewater monitoring efforts at a virtual meeting organized by the [HYPERLINK "https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cwea.org%2F&data=02%7C01%7CBhandari.Pradnya%40epa.gov%7Cd7e21ac794854c19ab1b08d8139bcaa4%7C88b378b367484867acf976aacbeca6a7%7C0%7C0%7C637280907120378265&sdata=8tZ4sH5IGEseHDY%2F51UfChRIWEKQl6vBy%2FJpgPAW7%2Bw%3D&reserved=0"]. Researchers continue to receive wastewater samples from the City of Marion, OH, and the Cincinnati Municipal Sewer District. They are also receiving wastewater samples from Pickaway Correctional Institute, in Orient, OH. ORD is also contributing to the development of

a monitoring network across Ohio including comparison of analytical methods and subsequent monitoring.

CDC/EPA Cleaning and Disinfection Guidance and ORD Research Presented to Real Estate Roundtable's Sustainability Policy Advisory Committee
On June 12, ORD shared the EPA/CDC Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces Guidance as well as an overview of the SARS-CoV-2 research. The Real Estate Roundtable's (RER) Sustainability Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC) shared their cleaning and disinfection challenges.

Salivary Antibody Assay to Assess Community Exposure
ORD Met with NC State researchers to discuss possible application of the assay in a population based study and received all approvals (IRB/HSRRO/Safety) to collect saliva samples. The Team reactivated the contractor for recruitment and collection of saliva samples and obtained 22 saliva samples from recently infected individual. Testing began June 16.

EPA to Release New Approach Methods Work Plan
During the week of June 22, EPA will publicly release the New Approach Methods (NAMs) Work Plan, which describes how the Agency plans to develop, test, and apply chemical safety testing approaches without the use of animals. This work plan serves as a roadmap for achieving the animal reduction and elimination goals set forth by Administrator Wheeler in 2019. To develop the work plan, EPA convened experts from across the Agency to consider stakeholder feedback received during the 2019 EPA NAM Conference and identify objectives and milestones to meet the Administrator's animal reduction goals while ensuring Agency decisions remain fully protective of human health and the environment. EPA will host a public webinar on June 30 to discuss its NAM Workplan. For more information visit [HYPERLINK "http://www.epa.gov/nam"].

PFAS

PFAS Innovation Treatment Team (PITT)
The PFAS Innovative Treatment Team (PITT) is fleshing out plans for conducting lab and field research this summer on projects related to PFAS destruction. A CRADA was recently signed with a U.S. waste management company that will allow the PITT to conduct field sampling in late July at one of the company's municipal waste combustion facilities. The PITT also met with ORD and OAQPS to finalize the Scope of Work with this company. This is a complicated field effort involving testing for products of incomplete combustion as well as surrogacy testing and residuals analysis. The PITT is also working with CESER to sample at a wastewater treatment plant that has a multiple hearth incinerator. This field work will involve initial analysis of influent streams for PFAS. In lab-related activities, a kick-off meeting is scheduled with the University of Dayton Research Institute this week to discuss thermal analysis studies of PFAS destruction they will be conducting. Additionally, a purchase request estimate has been solicited from a New Zealand mechanochemical ball milling company for potential PFAS research this summer. This week, the PITT also met with the ORD Executive Council Science Committee to present a challenge idea the PITT would like to issue via the [HYPERLINK "http://www.challenge.gov"] website. Through this website, the public is encouraged to compete their ideas to help the U.S. government solve problems. The PITT's challenge would ask solvers to submit detailed plans for a non-incineration, low-energy way of destroying

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PFAS/PFOA in concentrated aqueous film forming foam (AFFF), while creating the least amount of potentially harmful by-products.

Drinking Water Treatability Database Updated with PFAS Compounds
The Drinking Water Treatability Database was recently updated to include twenty references for PFAS compounds, enhancements of information on five PFAS treatment processes, and the addition of PFAS data. This update will help utilities, first responders to spills or emergencies, consultants and technical assistance providers, treatment process designers, and researchers receive the most current references on over 70 regulated and unregulated contaminants and more than 30 treatment processes to drinking water.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

State Engagement
On June 22, ORD will meet virtually with the Region 4 states. This meeting is an opportunity for ORD to hear directly from the Region 4 state environmental agencies about their science priorities and needs and to provide the states with updates on EPA research, including on PFAS treatment and COVID-19 in the areas of exposure, wastewater, and cleaning and disinfection. The aim of the meeting is to help ORD learn what is keeping the state directors up at night – and to see if there is any way we can provide additional support to the R4 states.

On June 23 – June 24, ORD will meet virtually with the ERIS Board. ERIS is the Environmental Research Institute of the States, the research arm of the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS). ORD has an extended meeting with the ERIS Board like this once a year to allow time for in-depth discussions on ways to continue and build upon engagements with states in EPA research. Discussions will focus on EPA and state updates, strategic research planning and implementation, state research needs, EPA research updates related to COVID-19 and PFAS, and collaborations among ORD and state partners.

Science Advisory Board (SAB) Consultation on RAF Guidelines Project
On June 23, there will be a SAB consultation on EPA's proposed approach for the *Consolidated Human Toxicity Assessment Guideline.* This consolidated guideline is intended to focus on hazard and dose-response and will include assessment of cancer and non-cancer endpoints. This will be the first of several SAB consultations on the development of this consolidated guideline.

Board of Scientific Counselors
On June 24, the Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC) Chemical Safety for Sustainability & Health and Environmental Risk Assessment (CSS-HERA) Subcommittee will convene to finalize their draft report on the FY19-22 HERA Strategic Research Action Plan (StRAP). This is a public meeting.

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Office of Water

Hot Topics

Proposed Approval of Washington Coastal Nonpoint Program
This week, OW and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) published a Federal Register Notice (FRN) proposing to approve the State of Washington's Coastal Nonpoint Program under the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments (CZARA). EPA and NOAA will receive comments on the proposed findings document by August 14, 60 days following publication of the FRN.

Perchlorate
This week, EPA issued a Notice of Final Action on Perchlorate to meet the consent decree deadline of June 19. This Notice announces EPA's withdrawal of the 2011 determination to regulate perchlorate in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) because perchlorate does not occur frequently at levels of public health concern and there is not a meaningful opportunity for health risk reduction through a national drinking water regulation.

Vessel Incidental Discharge National Standards of Performance Proposed Rule
As early as next week, OW will transmit the Vessel Incidental Discharge National Standards of Performance Proposed Rule to OP for review prior to seeking concurrence by the U.S. Coast Guard and submitting to OMB for interagency review. Clean Water Act Section 312, as amended by the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act in 2018, requires EPA to publish final national standards of performance for discharges incidental to the normal operation of commercial vessels by December 2020. The proposed standards was developed in close consultation with USCG and in consultation with interested Governors. The proposed rule would apply to incidental discharges from primarily commercial vessels (e.g., cruise ships, tankers, bulk carriers, cargo ships, ferries, offshore supply vessels) greater than 79 feet in length, as well as to ballast water discharges from vessels less than 79 feet in length and fishing vessels of all sizes, operating in waters of the United States and waters of the contiguous zone.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Western Municipal Water District (WWMD) Virtual Meeting
Next week, Deputy Assistant Administrator Charlotte Bertrand will attend WMWD's virtual meeting to discuss WaterSMART grants and projects, Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP), current legislation/guidance regulating PFAS-PFOS in water, and other key water issues. Meeting by phone. Closed press.

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