Region 1

Hot Topics:

Housatonic River Cleanup Plan Largely Affirmed by Environmental Appeals Board (EAB); Region 1 Working to Address Issues Remanded

- To promptly address the EAB decision, the Region has proceeded on three tracks:
  - On February 5th the Region filed a motion for the EAB to reconsider its determination on the only cleanup claim not affirmed; the limitation sought by the EAB in remand already is in the Site Consent Decree and Permit.
  - The Region has already begun gathering the information sought by the EAB to support the off-site disposal determination.
  - The Region is proactively reaching out to Massachusetts, Connecticut, GE and the local communities to explore ways to speed up the cleanup.

RA and OW AA Meet with NH Communities to Hear Concerns About Nutrient Pollution and NPDES Permitting

- On February 6th, OW AA Dave Ross and RA Alex Dunn met with Portsmouth, Dover, and Rochester NH to discuss the communities' concerns about the NPDES permit process and potential nitrogen limits. The meeting was very productive. The communities presented their views on the latest scientific data about Great Bay. NHDES Commissioner Bob Scott and staff from the Senate and House delegation were all in attendance. A meeting was also held with representatives of the Conservation Law Foundation to hear their concerns.

NH and CT SIP Approvals

- On February 6th, RA Alex Dunn signed two final *Federal Register* notices: one approving New Hampshire's rules for open burning and incinerators and another approving Connecticut's nonattainment new source review certification for the 2008 ozone standard. Both SIPs were signed using new digital signature software that expedites SIP approvals.

Region 1 Engagement Leads to Community Agreement on Waterline Construction

- EPA has been working for five years with the towns of Middletown and Durham, CT to provide a public source of drinking water to hundreds of Durham residents whose private wells were contaminated by the Durham Meadows Superfund site. On February 5th, the Middletown Common Council unanimously approved a Water Purchase and Sale Agreement with the neighboring town of Durham, CT to supply drinking water.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

Maine's §303(d) List Meets Clean Water Act Requirements

- Region 1 has determined that Maine's 2016 §303(d) list meets regulations and requirements of the Clean Water Act and expects to approve the impaired waters list in the next few days.

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Region 2

Hot Topics:

Region 2 Issuing Administrative Orders to Address Violations of SDWA Revised Total Coliform Rule. Region 2 continues to make protecting public health a priority by taking measures to insure that public water systems (PWSs) in the Region are providing safe drinking water to their customers. Over the last two months the Region has issued close to 20 administrative orders to address violations of the Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR), by water systems in New York and New Jersey. Those states have not yet been delegated primacy for the RTCR, and therefore, EPA has primary responsibility for enforcement of the rule. As the states identify violations to the Region, we are issuing orders for failure to comply with the monitoring, reporting, maximum contaminant level, treatment technique and/or site sampling plan requirements of the RTCR. The systems are a mix of community water systems and non-community water systems. The orders require compliance with the rule as well as demonstration that the appropriate public notification is performed.

Hurricane Irma/Maria: Electric Power Sector Recovery Meeting: On February 6, 2018, Region 2 participated in a meeting of the Energy Sector Working Group in Puerto Rico, a body comprised of representatives from various federal agencies, Puerto Rico government entities, and the Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico. The group's focus is planning the recovery of the electric power sector, which was heavily damaged by the hurricanes. There will be regular meetings of the Working Group, going forward. At the meeting, Noel Zamot, the Revitalization Coordinator for the Oversight Board, provided a vision for Puerto Rico's energy future, which he said would be provided for in the revised fiscal plan to be submitted by PREPA on February 12. A revised Integrated Resource Plan is being prepared consistent with this vision, but Zamot said that it is the PREPA fiscal plan that will be the key document.

Zamot said that the best estimate of the overall cost of rebuilding Puerto Rico's energy system is around $12 billion. Work is being done now to develop ways to incentivize private investment in the system. He also said that he believes there could be 600-700 MW of new renewables on the island in the next five or six years, but that in order to bring such renewable energy online, the Commonwealth will need to divest of a lot of excess capacity in conventional power sources. Zamot also said that Puerto Rico could eventually be a net energy exporter, including to the USVI.

Meeting with NYC DEP: Regional Administrator Lopez and staff engaged with NYC DEP Commissioner Vincent Sapienza to address a number of key concerns for the City.

Included in the discussion were the Gowanus and Newtown Creek Superfund sites, addressing complications of combined sewer overflow remedial work in concert with Superfund mitigation.

Attention was also directed to the City's drinking water infrastructure, notably the Hillview Reservoir and the NYC Filtration Avoidance Determination. Hillview Reservoir is an uncovered, finished water supply which is currently the subject of enforcement action from Region 2 and HQ. The FAD is an area of specific engagement by RA Lopez, who is working with stakeholders to achieve improved balance between protecting the water supply for the City with the economic and other community needs of the people residing within the Catskill Mountain Watershed.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

Feb. 26 - March 1: RA Pete Lopez will travel to PR and the USVI. The trip will focus on transitioning from hurricane response to recovery. The meetings with key local leaders, agencies and stakeholders will aid Region 2 in developing a Strategic Recovery Plan which will heavily focus on opportunities for tackling pre-existing environmental challenges. On 3/1 the RA will give the keynote address at the Inter-American Association of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering (AIDIS) Conference.

Withdrawal of Long Island TMDLs by NYSDEC: CWD and ORC will be briefing the RA on February 14 on the NYSDEC's plan to withdraw TMDLs established for pathogens in Long Island and EPA's options for responding to the withdrawal. The NYSDEC submitted a letter to EPA on January 31 outlining its plan to withdraw the TMDLs through public notice of its 2018 Section 303(d) list. The state contends that the TMDLs had several flaws which were discovered through the implementation of the MS4 General permit.

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Region 3

Hot Topics:

Region 3 Provides Lead Paint Rule Training to City of Philadelphia
On January 31 and February 1, 2018, Region 3 staff presented six (6) seminars to approximately 200 representatives from City of Philadelphia Departments of Licenses and Inspections and Health. There were also several participants from the Philadelphia School District. The purpose of the seminars was to raise awareness about the Lead Renovation, Repair, and Painting Rule (RRP) to the audience and explain how to identify compliance with the rule. The goal is for increased awareness and communication between the City and EPA regarding potential concerns while out in the field.

Roundtable Meeting on Fish Advisories near Westinghouse Electric Corp. (Sharon Plant) Superfund Site, Pennsylvania
On February 8, 2018 representatives from Region 3 attended a roundtable meeting hosted by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Northwest Regional Office. The topic of roundtable will be Pennsylvania fish consumption advisories focusing on the Shenango River. The roundtable meeting is in response to the August 2017 update that set a do not eat fish advisory for all fish in the Shenango River from the Shenango Lake dam to the mouth of the river. The previous fish advisory was "do not eat" for muskellunge, carp and channel catfish with a one meal per month limit for largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, black crappie, white crappie, walleye, bluegill, sunfish and all suckers. The revised advisory came about because of PCB concentrations in fish tissue samples that were collected in support of the most recent five-year review for the Westinghouse Electric Corp. (Sharon Plant) Superfund Site. The Region is working with the potentially responsible parties (PRPs) to investigate and cleanup PCBs at the Site. The PRPs have cleaned PCBs from the storm sewer. Region 3 participation at the meeting will help address one of the recommendations from the five-year review, which was to continue outreach and educational efforts about consuming fish.

Comfort Letter Prepared for Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot Superfund Site, Suffolk, Virginia
The Region 3 Land Revitalization Action Team (LRAT) has prepared a CERCLA Comfort letter, at the request of the Tidewater Community College Real Estate Foundation (TCCREF), for the Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot Superfund Site (FNOD), located in Suffolk, Virginia. TCCREF is the owner of two parcels of property which are a part of FNOD. TCCREF plans to demolish the existing structures on its property, perform sampling, and undertake environmental remediation if necessary. TCCREF plans to market the property for future mixed-use development. The comfort letter outlines the liability protections afforded to TCCREF as a Bona Fide Prospective Purchaser (BFPP) under CERCLA, and reasonable steps and statutory requirements that TCCREF must abide by to maintain its BFPP status. In preparing this letter the LRAT conferred with the Army Corps of Engineers, the responsible party for FNOD, and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

Region 3 welcomes Henry Darwin on Tuesday, February 13, 2018 to participate in the business review meeting.

Region 3 RA Cosmo Servidio will be meeting with representatives of Contura Energy on Thursday, February 15, 2018.

Region 4

Hot Topics:

Rockwell International (Grenada, MS)
Key Message: Over 125 participants attended the public meeting on 2/6. The primary concern from the community about the NPL listing focused on whether the Eastern Heights neighborhood is included. We received a letter from Congressman Thompson's office raising the same issues.

Nashville, TN Metro Long Term Control Plan (LTCP)
Key Message: Regarding a CSO/SSO consent decree, Nashville Metro's LTCP does not propose control measures designed to meet end of pipe requirements. TN prefers a partial approval of the LTCP. RA Trey Glenn is planning to meet with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Commissioner, Bob Martineau, next week to discuss the path forward.

Florida Human Health Criteria
Key Message: It is anticipated that Florida will formally withdraw its Human Health Criteria rule this week. Given the litigation surrounding this issue, including against EPA, there may be inquiries. The state has faced ongoing challenges associated with this rulemaking from numerous parties. The State has been unable to settle the matter and thus plans to do a new rulemaking on this matter. The state will post a notice of upcoming rulemaking for the HHC at the same time that they withdraw the existing rule, and will note that they are going to undertake a fish consumption study to address one area that has been a challenge.

Koppers Company, Inc. NPL Site (Charleston, SC)
Key Message: The ROD Amendment, including TI Waiver, will be signed today. This is the first step in allowing for cleanup, potential residential use, and partial deletion from the NPL. This site was on the recent list regarding the top sites with redevelopment potential.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

Decisions
None

Events
- RA Trey Glenn meeting with Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Commissioner, Bob Martineau the week of February 12.
- RA Trey Glenn potential site visit of Daicel Manufacturing facility on February 15.

Region 5

Hot Topics:

City of Dayton Has Notified Residents of Potential PFAS Contamination in Drinking Water
Key Message: While PFAS levels are currently well below the federal health advisory level, the city has concerns that the contamination will continue to migrate from the Wright Patterson Air Force Base into the community's drinking water source.

Dayton's Department of Water sent a notification to all municipal water customers stressing that the water is currently safe, but that the city, Ohio EPA and U.S. EPA are monitoring the situation closely. The air force base is a federal facility Superfund site being cleaned up by the Air Force. Significant press interest is expected.

EPA to Issue Order to Medline Industries for Distribution/Sale of Unregistered Pesticide
Key Message: Region 5 has prepared a FIFRA Section 13(a) Stop Sale, Use or Removal Order (SSURO) to be issued to Medline Industries on February 9, for the sale of "Micro-Kill 70 Isopropyl Wipes."

The region has documented approximately 1,290 separate distributions of the product and plans to address these FIFRA violations through a civil penalty action. According to its website, Medline is the largest privately held manufacturer and distributor of medical supplies and is ranked 47th on Forbes 2016 list of largest privately held companies in the U.S.

Upcoming Events and Major Decisions:

Regional Administrator Stepp to Meet with Rep. Dan Lipinski (D-IL) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Colonel Aaron Reisinger to Discuss Bubbly Creek
Key Message: The February 22, 2018 meeting will focus on the restoration of Bubbly Creek, a historically-contaminated section of the Chicago River system.

Rep. Lipinski called the meeting to bring EPA and the Corps together to ensure that Superfund is not an impediment to Corps' Bubbly Creek restoration efforts.

Region 6

Hot Topics:

Bird Creek, Osage County, Oklahoma
EPA received a Summons from Warren American that the Agency had been served the complaint on February 2, 2018. Jireh and Novy intend to serve complaints as well. Meanwhile, the companies continue to have technical discussions with EPA and conduct tests and surveys to better understand how nearby wells are impacting Bird Creek.

City of Ft. Smith, Arkansas
Region 6 is expecting a request for extension of consent decree deadlines from the city of Fort Smith in the next few days. The Consent Decree was entered on April 6, 2015 and the city has continued to have sanitary sewer overflow problems.

Takata, Eagle Pass, Texas
The state of Texas may require Takata to remove over 2 million recalled airbag inflators that are currently stored in Eagle Pass, Texas. The inflators are under a DOT Preservation Order requiring Takata to store all inflators returned to the company under the recall. EPA has determined that the inflators are not a hazardous waste until discarded and the state of Texas does not agree with that definition. The state is worried the company will fail and abandon the materials to be addressed by the state.

San Mateo Creek Basin Uranium Legacy Site, Albuquerque, NM
Region 6 will conduct government-to-government consultation with the Navajo Nation in Albuquerque on February 14, 2018 regarding the possible addition of the San Mateo Basin site to the National Priorities List. Groundwater in the Basin has been contaminated by discharges from 26, now inactive, uranium mines. Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye and the Navajo Nation EPA Executive Director Dr. Donald Benn are expected to attend.

Oklahoma Coal Combustion Residuals State Permit Program
After Region 6 proposed approval of the Oklahoma CCR program, EPA received a joint request from several environmental groups for a public hearing. The public hearing is scheduled for February 12 in Oklahoma City, OK. According to reports, Sierra Club representatives are expected to attend and oppose the approval claiming the state's inability to run the program.

St Bernard Parish, Louisiana
State of Louisiana provided a modified order and new modeling is expected shortly. Once complete, EPA intends to propose approval of the attainment demonstration state implementation plan for sulfur dioxide to prevent highway fund sanctions and Federal Implementation Plan from taking place in mid-April 2018. We expect a short gap between the completion of this action and the FIP deadline, however the highway sanction clock will stop.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

No Major Decisions scheduled during the next reporting period.

February 13	RA Idsal meets with members of the House and Senate, Washington, D.C.
February 14	RA Idsal tours Santa Clara Pueblo, NM

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Region 7

Hot Topics:

West Lake Site Update (Bridgeton, MO)
Key Message: Region 7 announces start of the public comment period and develops proposal for additional sampling.

- Last Thursday, the Administrator announced the preferred alternative for the West Lake Landfill site as Excavation Plus. The Region followed up on February 6 with a notification to the public of the availability of the Proposed Plan and Administrative Record File which includes the final versions of the Remedial Investigation Addendum, Final Feasibility Study, and a host of other documents that form the basis for the Agency's decision. The notification to the public also declared the start of the public comment period, which will run through March 22, and the date of the public meeting on March 6.
- This week the Region, along with representatives from the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, met with the Community Advisory Group to obtain their input for performing additional sampling in the North Quarry of the Bridgeton Landfill. The discussion resulted in a proposal of four sampling locations.
- Next week the Region will schedule a meeting with the Potentially Responsible Parties to discuss the proposal.

Public Meeting on Meramec and Lower Big River Feasibility Study (Hillsboro, MO)
Key Message: EPA holds public meeting with federal, state, and congressional partners on river restoration.

- On February 6, Region 7 staff participated in a public meeting hosted by the US Army Corps of Engineers and Missouri Department of Natural Resources to inform the public about the upcoming feasibility studies and river ecosystem restoration projects. The meeting included a short presentation followed by group Q&A and individual agency discussions with attendees.
- EPA presented information about pilot projects to address migrating lead contaminated river sediment. Potential project sites have been identified but are voluntary and will be constructed without cost to willing landowners. A list and map of potential locations for projects will be released soon.
- The meeting was attended by many interested landowners and staffers from Senator Blunt's and Senator McCaskill's offices.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

Regional Administrator Meets with Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce Leadership
Key Message: On February 9, 2018, the regional administrator will meet with the President and CEO and the Senior Vice President, Public Policy of the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce.

- Potential discussion topics include: Brownfields work in the metro area; the listening session being held in Kansas City on the proposed repeal of the Clean Power Plan; and program work that may be of interest to Chamber members.

Region 8

Hot Topics:

Sierra Club Petitions for Review on Hunter Title V Decision
The Sierra Club filed a petition for review with the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals, seeking review of the EPA's decision to deny the Sierra Club's petition to object to the title V operating permit for the PacifiCorp Energy Hunter Power Plant in Emery County, Utah. Air Program staff are working with ORC, OGC and DOJ to prepare the Administrative Record (due March 19, 2018).

Wyoming Environmental Quality Council (EQC) to Consider Provisions Authorizing Variances for Water Quality Standards
At its February 21, 2018 hearing, the EQC will consider adopting variance-authorizing rules for ammonia and nutrient water quality standards. The provisions are generally approvable except for one sentence indicating that individual variances will go into effect "either upon EPA approval or 90 days after submittal, whichever comes first." The "90-day effective date" language is inconsistent with federal regulations.

Earlier this week Region 8 briefed HQ on a Region 8 Lead Action Plan to reduce childhood lead exposure
The plan highlights actions EPA will support through cooperative federalism with our states, collaboration with other federal agencies, and outreach to drinking water associations. The plan also emphasizes EPAs role in opening creative opportunities to leverage infrastructure funding.

Upcoming Decisions and Events:

North Dakota Annual Environmental Ag Tour – June 15-29, 2018
As part of an annual ag tour hosted by the North Dakota Grain Growers Association (NDGGA) a 1-day mini-tour is being designed for EPA leaders to participate and experience North Dakota agriculture. At the request of NDGGA the Region 8 Agriculture Advisor will coordinate and develop options for senior leaders interested in participating.

February 13, 2018 Public Meeting to Present Draft Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment and Human Health Risk Assessment Findings for the Smurfit Stone Mill Superfund Site in Frenchtown (Missoula), Montana
EPA will present its preliminary human health and ecological risk assessment findings for the Smurfit-Stone Mill Superfund site to the Frenchtown, Montana community. Missoula County, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe (CSKT) are likely to express disappointment that the preliminary results for human and ecological risk assessments show no unacceptable risk at the site.

February 14, 2018 Anaconda School Board Meeting to Present Revised School Interiors Quality Assurance Project Plan and Sampling and Analysis Plan for the Anaconda Smelter Superfund Site, Anaconda, Montana
EPA will present to the Anaconda School Board Wednesday its revised Quality Assurance Project Plan/Sampling and Analysis Plan for lead sampling of indoor dust at public schools in Anaconda, Montana in response to concerns from the local community. EPA has also begun the process with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to work with stakeholders and develop a work plan for a public health study for Anaconda to be completed by March 2019.

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Region 9

Hot Topics:

FIFRA SETTLEMENT: we finalized the largest worker-protection-standard settlement nationwide with Syngenta. In one incident, 10 farmworkers in Kauai were sent to the hospital after entering a field treated with Chlorpyriphos. The settlement features a $400,000 SEP, in which Syngenta will provide worker-protection-standard training for small growers in Hawaii, Guam and the Northern Marianas Islands in Mandarin, Korean, Tagalog and Ilocano, and pay an additional $150,000. The case was referred to us by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

9th CIRCUIT CWA RULING: the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that an NPDES permit is required for County of Maui wastewater injection wells where "pollutants are fairly traceable from the point source to a navigable water such that the discharge is the functional equivalent of a discharge into the navigable water," and pollutant levels reaching the navigable waters are more than *de minimis*. This important decision establishes a broad, but not fully defined, standard for discharges of pollutants that reach navigable waters indirectly. We'll work with the Hawaii Department of Health on next steps, as we presently regulate this facility with a SDWA UIC permit.

AMMONIA: we lodged a CAA/CERCLA/EPCRA consent decree to address a fatal ammonia release by Gibson Wine at its Fresno County (CA) facility. Gibson will pay a $330K penalty and implement many facility safety upgrades to protect their workers and the surrounding community (a mix of industrial, commercial and residential land uses). At the Regional level, we continue to invest in ammonia safety days, and will sponsor a 4-day risk management plan ammonia class for local responders later this year.

REFINERIES: as California's new risk regulations for refineries took effect, we met with local co-regulators, CalOSHA, CalEPA and the Western States Petroleum Association to discuss implementation. We also attended the statewide conference of local regulators, who administer portions of the RCRA (tanks, generators), CAA 112r and EPCRA/CERCLA 103 programs.

LEAN: we held a very productive Kaizen event with Arizona DEQ partners as we expand the existing Performance Partnership Grant to include all CAA, CWA, SDWA and RCRA grants.

TRIBES: we hosted a quarterly 3-day meeting of Region 9 tribes, drawing participation of over 150 tribal colleagues from around the Region.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

USAF CERCLA DISPUTE: we're working with OECA to brief AA Susan Bodine on the USAF request for Administrator review of our Edwards Air Force Base (CA) remedy decision.

NAVAJO NATION: next week, Region 8 and 9 senior managers will convene a tribal consultation re Bonita Peak Mining District Site (CO), followed by Region 9 discussions with the tribe regarding a recently awarded EPA $85 mil. contract for uranium mine remediation, then Regions 6 and 9 will consult with Navajo President Begay regarding the San Mateo Creek Basin listing.

CLEAN POWER PLAN: we'll convene a public listening session on February 28 on the proposed repeal of the Clean Power Plan. We'll be live-streaming and offering Spanish translation. We're working closely with HQ on staffing and logistics.

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Region 10

Hot Topics:

None this week.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

Region 10 to Approve Oregon Clean Air Act State Implementation Plans: Region 10 is proposing to approve Oregon's Infrastructure SIP submissions for the nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and fine particulate matter standards as meeting Clean Air Act requirements. The Regional Administrator signed the Federal Register Notice this week. Whenever a new or revised ambient air quality standard is promulgated, each state must submit a plan for the implementation, maintenance, and enforcement of the standard – commonly referred to as "infrastructure" requirements. Oregon submitted two such plans: one to address the nitrogen dioxide and sulfur dioxide standards revised in 2010, and a second plan to address the fine particulate matter standard revised in 2012.

Region 10 Administrator to Attend Alaska Forum on the Environment and Meet with Range of Stakeholders: During the week of February 12, Regional Administrator Chris Hladick will be introduced at the annual Alaska Forum on the Environment conference in Anchorage. RA Hladick will attend a plenary session and two sessions focused on successes in the Indian General Assistance Program. In addition, while in Anchorage, the RA will meet with a wide range of Alaska stakeholders and have two press interviews. A number of other Region 10 staff will also participate in the conference as presenters or session moderators. From the Alaska Forum website: "*The Alaska Forum on the Environment is a statewide gathering of environmental professionals from government agencies, non-profit and for-profit businesses, community leaders, Alaskan youth, conservationists, biologists and community elders. The diversity of attendees sets this conference apart from any other. The 2018 event will be our 20th year providing a strong educational foundation for all Alaskans and a unique opportunity to interact with others on environmental issues and challenges...As many as 1,800 people attend AFE at the Dena'ina Center in Anchorage, Alaska to learn more about the environment and meet other Alaskans that work in the environmental field or are interested in the environment.*

Region 10 Completes Review of Washington's Clean Water State Revolving Fund: In early February Region 10's State Revolving Fund team met with the Washington Department of Ecology to complete the annual onsite review of Washington's Clean Water State Revolving Fund program. During Fiscal Year, Ecology signed $74.8 million into assistance agreements. Ecology continues to either meet or exceed EPA's programmatic and financial measures. The agency is effective at quickly obligating funds into new projects and their fund utilization rate, a key EPA measure, continues to exceed 100%.

Region 10 to Participate in Groundbreaking Event Announcing First WIFIA Loan for $129M to King County, WA: On March 1, Region 10 will participate in an event hosted by King County commemorating the groundbreaking of its "Georgetown Wet Weather Treatment Station" which will be nearly 50 percent funded by a $129M loan from the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act. With the WIFIA loan, King County will construct a new Wet Weather Treatment Station to treat combined sewer overflows prior to discharge into the Lower Duwamish Waterway. The Georgetown Treatment Station will collect and clean up to 70 million gallons per day of wastewater and storm water that would have spilled into the river during bad weather. This project will not only help protect aquatic life and people's health, but also help safeguard the Duwamish River Superfund Cleanup investment and in the restoration of Puget Sound. This will be the first-ever loan from EPA's WIFIA program. Anticipated attendees at the event include the EPA Regional Administrator, King County Executive, County Department of Public Works leadership, community leaders, and local and state representatives.

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Region 10 Administrator to Meet with Stakeholders and State Partners in Olympia, WA: On February 15, Region 10's Administrator, Chris Hladick will visit the Washington capital to meet with key stakeholders and partners including Governor Jay Inslee and key policy staff, the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, the Directors of the Departments of Ecology and Agriculture and the State Conservation Commission. Chris will also meet with staff in Region 10's Washington Operations Office.

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Office of Administration and Resources Management

Hot Topics:

Las Vegas Human Resources Shared Service Center Consolidation
Beginning in June 2018, work performed at EPA's human resources shared service center in Las Vegas, Nevada leased space will transition to EPA's owned locations in Research Triangle Park, NC and Cincinnati, OH. This consolidation will improve the utilization of EPA's real property portfolio and will positively impact staff coordination and service delivery. Staff affected by this consolidation will be given the option to relocate to RTP or Cincinnati at the same job series and grade level, separate from the agency, or find other federal employment. Other options for the effected employees are also being considered by management. The space will be released by September 30, 2018.

OARM Kaizen Event to Improve Procurement Quality and Efficiency
The week of February 5th, OARM's Office of Acquisition Management conducted its first Kaizen event to identify ways to improve the quality and efficiency of EPA's procurement requests in support of the Agency's lean management system. The goal of the event is to develop processes that will decrease deficiencies in procurement request packages by 75%, reducing the need to rework packages and reducing the time it takes to award contracts.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

None

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Office of Air and Radiation

Hot Topics:

- **Tracking State Implementation Plan (SIP) Actions:**
  - Total Number of SIPs submitted to Regions in FY 2018: 93
  - Total Number of SIP Submittals with Final Action taken by the Regions in FY 2018: 51
  - Total Number of Backlogged and Non-backlogged SIPs: 741
    - Backlogged: 398
    - Non-backlogged: 343

- **Upcoming Packages for the Administrator's Signature:**
  - NY SIP submittal addressing Regional Haze and revision of Best Available Retrofit Technology (BART) determination for the Roseton Generating Station Units 1 and 2 – Final Rule (Note that in conjunction with this action, we are also withdrawing the FIP that addresses BART for the same units).
  - Implementation of the 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone: Nonattainment Area Classifications – Final rule
  - National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Leather Finishing Operations Residual Risk and Technology Review – Proposed Rule
  - Revisions to Method 301: Field Validation of Pollutant Measurement Methods from Various Waste Media – Final Rule

- **OAR actions under review (or soon to be under review) at OMB:**
  - Notice of Proposed Withdrawal of the Control Techniques Guidelines for the Oil and Natural Gas Industry
  - Final Guidance on Significant Impact Levels for Ozone and Fine Particles in the Prevention of Significant Deterioration Permitting Program
  - Revisions to the Refrigerant Management Program's Extension to Substitutes – Proposed Rule (going to OP soon, followed by OMB review)

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

Repeal of the Clean Power Plan (CPP): Registration for the upcoming listening sessions is open on EPA's website. (As a reminder, the listening sessions are: February 21 in Kansas City, Missouri; February 28 in San Francisco; and March 27 in Gillette, Wyoming. The comment period has been reopened until April 26).

SIP Lean Event: Next week staff from the Regions, OGC, and OAR will be meeting here in DC to define an improved process for EPA action on SIPs (one of the 10 priority areas to which lean tools are being applied). Several states will also participate in the event.

Targeted Airshed Grants: EPA soon will award nine recipients in Regions 8, 9, and 10 with Targeted Airshed Grants of $3-4 million each. The funding will support state and local programs that replace vehicles and woodstoves with cleaner versions. (Background: Congress directed EPA to make $30 million available for competitive grants to reduce air pollution in nonattainment areas that the Agency determined ranked as the top five most polluted areas relative to ozone and PM2.5 standards).

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Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Row	Determination Type	Pending on 2/6/2018	Determinations Completed[1] as 2/6/2018	Determinations Posted on the Website as of 2/6/2018[6]
1	# of "not likely" determinations	**1**	**116[4]**	**116[4]**
2	# of §5(e) Orders signed by both EPA and the submitter	-	**325**	**324**
3	# of §5(e) Orders signed by EPA and awaiting submitter signature	**43**	-	-
4	# of non-Order SNURs/"not likely" determinations	**0**	**0**	**0**
5	# of cases in post-FOCUS final determination development[5]	**342[3, 5]**	-	-
6	# of cases flagged for in-depth review	**41**	-	-
7	# of PMNs, SNUNs and MCANs awaiting FOCUS (within 90-day review)	**15**	-	-
8	# of LVE/LOREX exemption grants	-	**529**	**525**
9	# of LVE/LOREX exemption denials	-	**120**	**120**
10	**Total number of cases**	**442**	**1090**	-
11	Normal active workload for the New Chemicals Program	300	-	-
12	Number of cases undergoing testing or data development by submitter	74[3]	-	-
13	**Backlog[2]**	68	-	-

[1] "Determinations Completed" means that EPA has completed its reviews on these cases and that final determinations have been made by EPA under TSCA section 5(a)(3).
[2] (Total number of cases) – (Normal active workload for the New Chemicals Program) - (Number of cases undergoing testing or data development) = Backlog
[3] Of these cases, approximately 73 are "active" lung toxicity cases that are suspended while submitters either conduct or are deciding whether to conduct testing to develop data on pchem properties, exposures and toxicity.
[4] "Not Likely" determinations are not posted until the final signed determination document is prepared and has been shared with submitter.
[5] These cases are those for which Post-FOCUS work is underway to develop: not likely determinations; non-Order SNURS coupled with not likely determinations; or section 5(e) or 5(f) Orders. When the OPPT Office Director decides which of these regulatory paths to follow, the case is moved to: Row 3 when the section 5(e) or 5(f) Order is sent to the submitter for signature; Row 4 when the SNUR is published and the not likely determination document is signed; and Row 1 when the determination document is sent to the OPPT OD for signature.
[6] These are all only final determinations posted on the web: grants and denials

Hot Topics:

Fees Rule. On February 8th, EPA announced that it is proposing a rule to require certain fees to defray 25% of the costs of administering certain sections of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). The rule, if finalized, will secure sustainable funding to defray costs of implementation of new responsibilities under the amended law and to review chemicals for safety with the highest scientific standards. Under the proposed rule, affected businesses would begin incurring fees on October 1, 2018.The fees rule is the final of four framework rules under amended TSCA.

Unique Identifiers. On February 7th, OCSPP requested comment on an additional potential approach to assigning and applying unique identifiers under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). OCSPP developed this additional approach after a previous comment period (announced in a May 8, 2017, Federal Register document) on three other potential approaches. Under amended TSCA, whenever EPA approves a confidential business information (CBI) claim for chemical identity, EPA is required to: assign a "unique identifier" to that chemical identity; apply this unique identifier to other information or submissions concerning the same substance; and ensure that any non-confidential information received by the Agency identifies the chemical substance using the unique identifier - while the specific chemical identity of the chemical substance is protected from disclosure. Written comments are due March 12, 2018.

TSCA Chemical Substance Inventory Update. One of the requirements under the Lautenberg Act was for EPA to update the TSCA Chemical Substance Inventory by designating every substance on it either "active" or "inactive" in U.S. commerce. Currently there are about 85,000 chemicals on the Inventory. Manufacturers and processors have been reporting whether they've manufactured, imported or processed the chemicals on the inventory for nonexempt commercial purposes in the 10-year period ending on June 21, 2016. The reporting period for manufacturers (including importers) closed on February 7, 2018. As of January 9th, the number of unique reported chemicals was 28,266. The reporting period for processors will end on October 5, 2018.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

National Agricultural Aviation Association's Spring Board Meeting (NAAA) - Office of Pesticide Program Director, Rick Keigwin, will present at the NAAA meeting on Friday, February 16. Rick will present on OPP's 2018 priorities and issues affecting pesticide aerial applicators. The meeting will be held at the Hilton Alexandria Old Town.

Minor Crop Farmer Alliance Water Monitoring Workshop – On February 21, Office of Pesticide Programs staff, Mark Corbin and Dana Spatz (Environmental Fate and Effects Division), will present at the annual meeting of the Minor Crop Farmer Alliance (MCFA) in Washington, DC. Topics they plan to present on include: Overview of Drinking Water Assessments, Models and Monitoring Data Use in DWA, and Future Developments in the Use of Monitoring Data for Risk Assessments for Pesticides. MCFA members include national, regional, state and local associations representing specialty crop producers. Other meeting attendees may include non-specialty crop organizations, registrants, and USDA.

Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Hot Topics:

- The current Continuing Resolution expires tonight February 8. Today the Congress is scheduled to vote on another CR providing funding through March 23. OCFO has prepared reports for shutdown contingency planning and are ready to load a new CR if one is passed.
- The CR legislation also provides $89.3 billion in emergency supplemental funding for hurricane disasters of which the agency is provided $63.2 million:
    - $6.2 million for the Superfund program to help repair damage sustained to remedies at Superfund sites, including removal of damaged tanks and containers and repair of groundwater monitoring wells, aeration towers and fencing.
    - $7.0 million for the Leaking Underground Storage Tank program to repair damage to storage tanks to prevent spills and contaminants from leaking into the environment.
    - $50 million for debris and technical assistance to inspect and clean up hazardous waste facilities and to provide additional support for solid waste management activities.
    - Also provides Puerto Rico access to previously appropriated State Revolving Fund money to help rebuild the island's clean water and drinking water systems.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

- OMB clearance has been received for the *FY 2018-2022 EPA Strategic Plan*, the *FY 2019 Annual Performance Plan* and the *FY 2017 Annual Performance Report*, which are included in EPA's *FY 2019 Congressional Justification*, for issuance on February 12. OCFO will issue an advance copy of the *Strategic Plan* to senior leaders on February 9.
- The FY2019 President's Budget will be transmitted to Congress on Monday, February 12. OCFO is incorporating the recent funding changes from OMB to the budget documents and working with OMB for clearance of all documents. OCFO is scheduled to meet with both the House and Senate Appropriations Committee staff on the details of the FY2019 President's Budget this Friday as part of the traditional rollout activities.
- The inaugural E-Enterprise Bulletin (newsletter) is slated for release by February 16, 2018. The primary audience for the Bulletin are EPA, states and tribes. The EPA Strategic Plan, which includes an objective focused on shared governance/cooperative federalism, will be highlighted. This first Bulletin also includes a statement by the EELC co-chair, Henry Darwin, and the state and tribal co-chairs, regarding the value of E-Enterprise.

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Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations

Hot Topics:

- **February 14** – House Energy and Commerce Committee will hold a hearing on NSR program entitled, "New Source Review Permitting Challenges for Manufacturing and Infrastructure"

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

- **February 12** - OW & OLEM bipartisan budget briefing for House Transportation and Infrastructure, Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee staff.
- **February 14** - The next Quarterly Outreach Meeting Troy Lyons, OCIR Associate Administrator, will open the session. Part I of the meeting will feature an Overview of EPA's PFAS Action Agenda, as well as an Overview of the State of Michigan's PFAS Action Response Team.
- **February 25** - EPA and Administrator Pruitt will host the Western Governors' Association for a breakfast.

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Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

Hot Topics:

FY 2017 Enforcement Results: On February 8, 2018 EPA announced its Fiscal Year 2017 annual enforcement and compliance results, highlighting site remediation and civil and criminal enforcement results (https://www.epa.gov/enforcement/enforcement-annual-results-fiscal-year-2017).

Edwards Air Force Base CERCLA Dispute: The U.S. Air Force has appealed the Region 9 Acting RA's decision on a dispute related to the Air Force's preference to apply the EPA IRIS toxicity value for PCE, rather than California's more stringent toxicity value, to determine the vapor intrusion boundary at the site. The Air Force would like to provide supplemental information to EPA by March 2 prior to a meeting they requested with the Administrator. The Air Force has agreed to meet with the OECA AA, OLEM Acting AA, and Region 9 before meeting with the Administrator to discuss the dispute and attempt to narrow or resolve the issues at dispute. The Air Force recognizes that this timeline will result in the Administrator issuing a decision after the 21-day time period set out in the FFA.

Man Sentenced to Over Seven Years in Federal Prison after Pleading Guilty in Multi-State Biodiesel Fraud Scheme: Andre Bernard was sentenced in the Middle District of Florida to 87 months in federal prison for conspiracy to commit wire fraud, making false statements related to the Clean Air Act, and participating in a multi-state scheme to defraud biodiesel buyers and U.S. taxpayers by fraudulently selling biodiesel credits and fraudulently claiming tax credits. The court also entered a money judgment in the amount of $10.5 million. Bernard and his co-conspirators operated entities that purchased renewable fuel on which credits had already been claimed and used a series of false transactions to transform the old fuel into "feedstock" for new fuel, generating new credits for the same fuel.

Illinois Man Sentenced to Over Three Years in Prison for Violating the Clean Air Act Related to Asbestos Removal at Former Pillsbury Plant: On February 5, 2018, Joseph J. Chernis, IV was sentenced in the Central District of Illinois to serve 37 months in federal prison for failure to adequately remove and dispose of asbestos material, violations of the Clean Air Act, at the former Pillsbury Mills facility in Springfield, Illinois. In 2014, Chernis hired an untrained, homeless man to illegally remove dry asbestos pipe insulation from the 18-acre site and plant. The asbestos debris was left inside vacant buildings which were then building demolished, potentially contaminating workers on site and nearby homes less than approximately 1,000 feet away.

Meeting with DOD on cleanup and redevelopment of Nansemond Ordnance Depot: On Thursday February 8, 2018, representatives from OECA, OLEM, and Region 3 met with the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Environment, Safety and Occupational Health) regarding the future redevelopment of part of the former Nansemond Ordnance Depot in Suffolk, VA, where the Tidewater Community College was previously located. The Tidewater Community College Real Estate Foundation is in the process of preparing the parcel for future development. EPA has offered to provide a Comfort/Status Letter to help expedite the cleanup and redevelopment of the site.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

On Monday, DOJ is planning to lodge a consent decree on behalf of EPA resolving Clean Air Act violations relating to industrial flares at the Shell Chemical LP facility in Norco, Louisiana.

Office of Environmental Information

Hot Topics:

None to report

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

None to report

Office of General Counsel

Hot Topics:

- *Connecticut v. Pruitt*, No. 17-796 (D. Ct). New development: On Feb. 7, 2018, the court granted plaintiffs' motion for summary judgment and denied EPA's. The Court ordered EPA to hold a required hearing within 30 days, and make a final ruling within the statutory deadline of 60 days, on the state's pending petition under Clean Air Act §126 seeking a finding that emissions from a coal-fired power plant in Pennsylvania interfere with air quality in CT in violation of the Act's "good neighbor"/interstate transport provisions. The Court rejected EPA's requested deadline of Dec. 31, 2018. EPA is in the process of reaching out to CT to discuss requesting a potential modification to extend the deadlines.
- WOTUS. New development: On Feb. 6, 2018, three complaints were filed challenging the Army Corps and EPA's rule adding an applicability date to the 2015 Rule defining WOTUS: one in D.S.C., and two in S.D.N.Y. (two brought by ENGOs, another by states). The complaints generally seek vacatur of the rule, claiming that it is arbitrary and capricious, violated notice and comment requirements, and issued the rule in excess of statutory authority.
- *Blue Water Baltimore, et al. v. Pruitt,* No. 17-1253 (D. Md.). New development: On Feb. 5, 2018, the district court partially granted and partially denied EPA's motion to dismiss for lack of jurisdiction where the plaintiff had alleged EPA had failed to perform a mandatory duty under its regulations to determine whether certain discharges contribute to violations of water quality standards. The district court agreed with EPA that no such duty existed, but disagreed that exclusive jurisdiction lies in the court of appeals, relying on the Supreme Court's recent WOTUS decision.
- *Clean Water Action v. Pruitt*, No. 17-1216 (D.C. Cir.). New development: On Feb. 1, 2018, the D.C. Circuit granted EPA's motion to transfer a "protective" petition for review filed by eight environmental groups of EPA's Sep. 2017 final rule postponing certain compliance dates in the 2015 Steam Electric Postponement Rule to the Fifth Circuit, recognizing the Steam Electric Postponement Rule is "closely related" to petitions for review pending before that court.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

02/14	Oral argument in *Montana Envt'l Info. Ctr. v. EPA* (9th Cir.). Plaintiffs allege MT's implementation of their EPA-approved PSD does not meet CAA requirements.
02/20	Oral arguments in *Sunnyside Gold Corp. v. EPA* and *AIMCO/Genuine Parts Co. v. EPA* (D.C. Cir), challenging EPA's listing on the NPL of Bonita Peak Mining District Site (Gold King Mine-related) and West Vermont Drinking Water Site in Indianapolis.
02/22	Hearing in *American Lung Association, et al. v. EPA,* (N.D. Cal.), for failure to designate areas under the 2015 Ozone NAAQS by the statutory deadline.

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Office of International and Tribal Affairs

Hot Topics:

U.S.-Japan Decommissioning and Environmental Management Working Group - EPA co-chairs this group which is a part of the U.S.-Japan Bilateral Commission on Civil Nuclear Cooperation. The Ministry of the Environment reported that the nuclear decontamination effort for zones surrounding the Fukushima-Daiichi Nuclear Power Station is nearly complete, but Japan wants to continue to exchange information with the U.S. on how to handle and remove highly contaminated soil.

U.S.-Morocco Enviro-Tech Tiger Team - OITA joined the first interagency coordination call led by the State Department to discuss the EnviroTech Tiger Team engagement in Morocco. The discussion focused on emerging environmental topics in Morocco and potential opportunities to engage the private sector in the areas of water, air, and waste technologies.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

Transboundary Mining Meetings – A delegation from Alaska and Montana will be meeting with EPA and State Department on February 13 to discuss transboundary waters concerns from mining operations in British Columbia. The Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska has also requested a meeting with EPA and State Department next week to discuss transboundary mining issues.

Japanese Ambassador Meeting – The Administrator will be meeting with the Japanese Ambassador on February 15 to discuss bilateral cooperation on mercury pollution, regional air quality, sustainable materials management, and environmental technology and innovation.

Israel Mission – The Administrator will be traveling to Israel on February 19 to 22 to discuss bilateral cooperation on rule of law, water quality management and wastewater recycling, site remediation, and environmental technology and innovation.

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Office of Land and Emergency Management

Hot Topics:

1. **Emergency Responses to Hurricanes and Wildfires.**
   a. **Hurricanes.** We are on a track to transfer focus more and more to long term recovery. In Puerto Rico, the 100% cost share is scheduled to end on March 20; in the Virgin Islands, it is scheduled to end on March 14. For example, some support functions, such as EPA Community Involvement Coordinators, are in the process of demobilizing.
   b. **Wildfires.** The current forecast is that we will be at 100% on the mission assignment until March 27.

2. **Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR).**
   a. **State permit programs.** The public comment period for Oklahoma's proposed program approval is being extended to March 19. This is the first State CCR Permit Program to be proposed for approval.
   b. **Remand rule.** It is with OMB for review.

3. **Clean Air Act 112(r) Risk Management Program (RMP).**

4. **Ongoing major Superfund NPL sites (including East Chicago, West Lake, Bonita Peak, Hudson River, Portland Harbor, Mississippi Phosphates).** The proposed plan for West Lake was released earlier this week.

5. **CERCLA 108(b) Financial Assurance.**
   a. **Hard Rock Mining.** The final rule is pending publication in the Federal Register. A corrections package is en route to the Administrator through OP and OGC.
   b. **Other Three Sectors**. We are working closely with OGC to develop an analysis plan.

6. **CERCLA-EPCRA AFO-CAFO Rule**. We are working closely with OGC, OP, and the AO to especially accelerate the EPCRA rulemaking package and the CERCLA rulemaking package. The DC Circuit granted our motion to further stay the mandate until May 1.

7. **NHSM rule.** The final rule, "Additions to List of Categorical Non-Waste Fuels: Other Treated Railroad Ties" was published in the FR on February 7, 2018.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

1. **Business Review.** OLEM held its monthly business review meeting today to discuss our performance metrics and countermeasures reviews.

2. **CCR Public Hearing.** There will be a public hearing on February 13 in Oklahoma City on the proposed State CCR Permit Program. (See item #2 above).

3. **LEAN Kaizen Events.** OLEM is planning two LEAN Kaizen events (Superfund sites Ready for Anticipated Use, Brownfields Ready for Anticipated Use).

Office of Policy

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

Tracking High Priority Rulemakings: OP is working with Henry Darwin to begin tracking the progress of high priority rulemakings to ensure EPA's regulatory priorities are being accomplished in a timely manner. As part of the spring 2018 Regulatory Agenda, each office is currently reviewing rulemaking schedules in ADP Tracker. Offices should carefully review the planned schedules for these high priority rules and make any necessary updates before February 13. These schedules will be used as the target dates for the monthly tracking report. After February 13, the Office of Policy will confirm the list of rules to be tracked, and program offices will have one week to make final revisions to those schedules.

Number of Actions to OFR this Year:

- Signed by Regions:
  - Notices: 7
  - Proposed Rules: 21
  - Direct Final Rules: 2
  - Withdrawal of Proposed Rule: 1
  - Withdrawal of Direct Final: 3
  - Final Rules: 17
- Signed by HQ:
  - Notices: 36
  - Proposed Rules: 5
  - Final Rules: 18

Number of Actions to OFR this Week (Feb 2 – Feb 8):

- Signed by Regions:
  - Notices: 0
  - Proposed Rules: 7
  - Direct Final Rules: 1
  - Withdrawal of Proposed Rule: 1
  - Withdrawal of Direct Final: 0
  - Final Rules: 7
- Signed by HQ:
  - Notices: 12
  - Proposed Rules: 2
  - Final Rules: 3

Documents Submitted to OFR From January 31 - February 7, 2018

FRL	Title	Date Submitted to OFR
9974-25-Region 5	OHIO: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revision	2/7/2018
9974-34-ORD	Ambient Air Monitoring Reference and Equivalent Methods: Designation of One New Reference Method	2/7/2018
9974-33-OARM	National and Governmental Advisory Committees	2/7/2018
9974-08-OEI	Modification of Secondary Treatment Requirements for Discharges into Marine Waters/ICR 0138.11	2/7/2018

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9974-27-Region 2	Outer Continental Shelf Air Regulations Update to Include New Jersey State Requirements	2/7/2018
9974-28-Region 1	Outer Continental Shelf Air Regulations; Consistency Update for Massachusetts	2/7/2018
9972-05-OCSPP	Certain New Chemicals or Significant New Uses; Statements of Findings for October 2017	2/6/2018
9972-07-OCSPP	Certain New Chemicals or Significant New Uses; Statements of Findings for November 2017	2/6/2018
9972-36-OCSPP	Rimsulfuron; Pesticide Tolerances	2/6/2018
9972-61-OCSPP	Cyflufenamid; Pesticide Tolerances	2/6/2018
9972-69-OCSPP	Zoxamide; Pesticide Tolerances	2/6/2018
9973-55-Region 9	Approval of California Air Plan Revisions, Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District	2/6/2018
9974-11-Region 9	Air Quality State Implementation Plans; Approvals and Promulgations: California; South Coast Moderate Area Plan for the 2006 PM2.5 Standards; Correction of Deficiency	2/6/2018
9974-05-Region 2	New York: Incorporation by Reference of State Hazardous Waste Management Program	2/6/2018
9974-06-Region 2	New York:: Incorporation by Reference of State Hazardous Waste Management Program	2/6/2018
9973-56-Region 9	Approval of California Air Plan Revisions, Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District	2/6/2018
9971-89-OCSPP	Proposed Information Collection Request; Comment Request; Submission of Unreasonable Adverse Effects Information under FIFRA Section 6(a)(2)	2/5/2018
9972-94-OCSPP	Assignment and Application of the "Unique Identifier" under TSCA Section 14; Notice of Additional Information and Opportunity to Comment	2/5/2018
9974-04-OAR	Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2016	2/5/2018
9974-07-OEI	Application for Reference and Equivalent Method Determination (Renewal)/ICR 0559	2/5/2018
9974-22-OECA	National Environmental Justice Advisory Council; Notification of Public Teleconference and Public Comment	2/5/2018
9974-24-Region 4	Air Plan Approval; KY; Fine Particulate Matter and Ozone NAAQS Revisions	2/2/2018
9974-16-Region 10	Air Plan Approval; OR, Oakridge; PM2.5 Moderate Plan, Finding of Attainment and Clean Data Determination	2/2/2018
9973-02-OCSPP	Modification of Significant New Uses of Certain Cjemical Substances	2/2/2018

9974-12-Region 3	Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; Removal of Clean Air Interstate Rule Trading Programs Replaced by Cross-State Air Pollution Rule Trading Programs	2/2/2018
9974-10-Region 9	Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality State Implementation Plans; California; Interstate Transport Requirements for Ozone, Fine Particulate Matter, and Sulfur Dioxide	2/2/2018
9970-37-OCSPP	Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection; Comment Request	2/1/2018
9974-01-Region 2	Proposed CERCLA Cost Recovery Settlement for the Frankfort Asbestos Superfund Site, Village of Frankfort, Herkimer County, New York	2/1/2018
9974-03-Region 10	Proposed CERCLA Administrative Cost Recovery Settlement; Post Road Drum Site, Anchorage, Alaska	2/1/2018
9973-51-OAR	Reclassification of Major Sources as Area Sources Under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act	2/1/2018
9969-80-OLEM	Additions to List of Section 241.4 Categorical Non-Waste Fuels	2/1/2018
9973-60-Region 10	National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan; National Priorities List: Deletion of the Vancouver Water Station #4 Superfund Site	2/1/2018
9973-62-Region 10	National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan; National Priorities List: Deletion of the Vancouver Water Station #1 Superfund Site	2/1/2018
9973-53-OARM	National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology	2/1/2018
9973-54-Region 3	Clean Air Act Operating Permit Program; Petition to Object to Title V Permit for Raven Power, Fort Smallwood Complex; Maryland	2/1/2018
9972-66-OCSPP	Fomesafen; Pesticide Tolerances	2/1/2018
9972-75-OCSPP	Isoxaben; Pesticide Tolerances	2/1/2018
9974-20-OW	Definition of "Waters of the United States" – Addition of Applicability Date to 2015 Clean Water Rule	2/1/2018
9974-15-Region 7	Approval of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Missouri; Hospital, Medical, and Infectious Waste Incineration (HMIWI) Units	2/1/2018

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Office of Research and Development

Next week, ORD's senior management team will meet in Research Triangle Park, NC on a wide range of topics including the development of the next versions of our Strategic Research Action Plans, workforce strategy, and what EPA's lean management system means for ORD.

Hot Topics:

Technical Support
During the first quarter FY18, 215 people across ORD provided more than 8200 hours of technical support to EPA, states, and other partners. This support was provided to all major EPA program offices and ten EPA regions, 48 U.S. states and territories, and numerous federal agencies, educational institutions, and international agencies.

ORD Supports Region 9 on Asbestos Removal Related to Wildfires
Recent wildfires in northern California damaged many buildings, some of which have asbestos containing material (ACM). One large facility (approximately 20,000 square feet) has debris throughout (e.g., steel, roofing materials, and framing) that is piled up to 10 feet high. The debris piles make ACM removal dangerous. ORD is providing technical support to Region 9 on how to handle ACM from debris piles and the structures. In areas of the building that are structurally sound, undamaged ACM can be abated using current regulations and the volume of debris that must go to an asbestos landfill can be reduced, thereby reducing costs. All debris piles materials will go to the asbestos landfill.

Evaluating decontamination methods for benzene-contaminated drinking water following wildfires
Last week Region 9 contacted ORD asking for technical assistance associated with the recent California wildfires. Following the fires, residents of Santa Rosa's Fountaingrove neighborhood complained of water taste and odor issues. The Santa Rosa Water Department discovered elevated levels of benzene in the drinking water, although the source was unknown. ORD provided data from our studies at the Water Security Test Bed, demonstrating that flushing with clean water was effective at removing benzene from cement-mortar lined pipe and copper plumbing. ORD notified R9 that flushing could be a decontamination strategy, but may take longer to clear the PVC water pipes of detectable benzene.

ORD ending all operations in Las Vegas
On February 6 we announced that all ORD operations in Las Vegas, Nevada will be ending as of September 30, 2018. Previously, the decision was made to end laboratory operations in Las Vegas by the end of this fiscal year but this new decision impacts all ORD staff in Las Vegas, both non-laboratory and laboratory personnel. The decision was made as a way of reducing the amount of ORD's federally leased space and reducing operational costs.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

Inorganic Arsenic Briefing for New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and Region 1
On February 12th, ORD will be meeting with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and EPA Region 1 to provide a briefing on state of the science and progress on the inorganic arsenic assessment.

Presentation on stream continuous data quality control to Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). On February 14th ORD will demonstrate a web app being developed for performing Quality Control checks on continuous temperature and water level data from stream sensors. Wisconsin DNR is interested in using the web app for their water quality monitoring and citizen science sensor programs.

Office of Water

Hot Topics:

Hydrologic Connection Request for Comment: As early as this week, OW anticipates sending forward to OP for Federal Register publication a request for input from states and stakeholders on how pollutants that are released into groundwater and flow through a direct hydrologic connection into a jurisdictional surface water should be treated under the Clean Water Act. EPA is requesting comments on whether the Agency should consider clarification or revision of previous statements and if so, comments on how that clarification or revision should be provided.

Waters of the U.S.: This week, the final rule adding an applicability date to the 2015 Clean Water Rule was published in the Federal Register, ensuring the 2015 rule will not be implemented before February 6, 2020. Two lawsuits over this rule have been filed in district courts: in Southern District of New York by the States of New York, California, Connecticut, Maryland, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, Massachusetts, and DC; and in the U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina in Charleston by the Southern Environmental Law Center on behalf of American Rivers, Clean Water Action, Defenders of Wildlife, Charleston Waterkeeper, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, Coastal Conservation League, Friends of the Rappahannock, North Carolina Coastal Federation, and North Carolina Wildlife Federation.

Unconventional Oil and Gas *Rule CWA Section 308 Letters*: This week, OW sent letters to nine companies in Pennsylvania requesting information needed to consider the effects of the 2016 Unconventional Oil and Gas Effluent Guidelines final rule, as part of a court commitment. The letters request that the companies provide financial information and information related to their oil and gas wastewater management practices and expenditures by March 15. OW has taken several steps to reduce the burden to the respondents.

Perchlorate Peer Review Meeting: At the recent Perchlorate Peer-Review public meeting, eight panelists provided their feedback on the scientific work developed by EPA. Stakeholders including AWWA, Perchlorate Study Group (via Intertox) and NRDC, provided public comments to the panel during the first day of the meeting. Panelists had generally favorable remarks on the technical work developed by EPA as the scientific basis for decision-making on perchlorate in drinking water. EPA expects the peer review panel to submit a final Peer Review report outlining all recommendations and responses by early March.

LCR Consultation Meetings: OW continues to hold follow up Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) Federalism and Tribal consultation meetings, meeting recently with the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators, the American Public Works Association Government Affairs Committee, and the United South and Eastern Tribes. Additional Federalism consultation meetings will be held with the American Water Works Association, the National Rural Water Association, the National Association of Counties, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National League of Cities. Federalism consultation is scheduled to close on March 8 while Tribal consultation will continue until March 16.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

None

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