Region 1

Hot Topics

Coordination Meeting Prevents Potential Problems in New Bedford Harbor Cleanup

This week Region 1 met with representatives of AVX Corporation, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, and the city of New Bedford, MA to discuss the complex construction schedule and technical approach for numerous on-going cleanup projects, including an interim cap adjacent to the Aerovox site. The meeting succeeded in providing clarity on the multiple, sometimes conflicting, construction schedules allowing all parties to better coordinate their contemporaneous projects and avoid any failed obligations.

Region 1 Provides Technical Assistance with Upcoming MS4 Requirements

On August 9, Region 1 provided technical assistance to 75 participants through a Question & Answer Webinar on how to complete a Notice of Intent (NOI) for small municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4). Most participants represented regulated MS4 communities in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, consultants, and several nontraditional MS4s (such as universities and hospitals). The Region answered nearly 40 questions to assist the regulated community prepare for the submittal of their NOI reports due on October 1.

Access Warrant Signed to Assist Cleanup at Massachusetts Superfund Site

On August 13, a U.S. Magistrate Judge signed an ex parte administrative warrant granting Region 1 access to the Reed & Barton Removal Site property in Norton, MA. This warrant was necessitated by the Agency's inability to identify a person authorized to provide access to the Site, owned by a bankrupt company. EPA requested access to perform a removal action addressing soils and sediments contaminated with lead, arsenic, volatile organic compounds, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. Region 1 has been coordinating closely with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on this planned removal action.

New Hampshire Rivers Successfully Test Geographic Response Plans (GRPs)

On August 14 and 15, Region 1 first-responders employed GRPs, map based tools that help guide responders in effectively deploying containment and recovery equipment in the event of a spill to navigable waterways, on the Merrimack and Moose Rivers. On the Merrimack River, oil control booms were deployed with the assistance of the NH Department of Environmental Services and local Fire Departments, while the US Coast Guard Atlantic Strike Team and a local Fire Department team deployed on Moose River. The exercise successfully demonstrated the effectiveness of coordinated planning.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Region 1 Audits Vermont Laboratory

From August 21 to 23, Region 1 will be on-site and observing the New England Laboratory Accreditation Committee (NELAC) Drinking Water Certification Program audit of the Vermont Department of Health Laboratory in Colchester, VT.

RA Dunn Welcomes Inspector General to Region 1

EPA Inspector General Arthur Elkins will visit Region 1 on August 20.

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Region 2

Hot Issues:

Chemours/Deepwater, NJ - GenX Sampling: The NJ American Water Company that operates the Penns Grove public water supply system has now agreed to allow Chemours to carry out sampling for GenX and other PFAS. NJAWC had previously denied Chemours access, and was considering whether to do the sampling itself. In collaboration with the NJ Dep't. of Environmental Protection, we had also offered the option of having EPA collect and analyze the samples. NJAWC is now preparing an access agreement for Chemours. We will monitor progress, and seek to expedite the sampling. A press release addressing this issue is awaiting sign-off from NJDEP.

Hearing in Civil Case re: CWA violations on Shinnecock Nation Territory. On 8/14 a hearing was held on the US' request for a preliminary injunction against Gordon Smith, Sr., a member of the Shinnecock Indian Nation, for CWA violations involving unpermitted placement of fill material into federally protected tidal wetlands on Shinnecock territory. Mr. Smith, representing himself, argued that the US has no authority to enforce the CWA on tribal lands. EPA initiated this action at the request of the Shinnecock Nation. The judge reserved her decision on the motion, which requests an order prohibiting placement of additional fill in the wetlands during the pendency of this action. R2 is preparing a plan for wetlands restoration and is exploring the potential for use of the "self-help" concept to bring mitigation within financial reach of the Shinnecock Nation.

Upcoming:

Draft Permit for Offshore Meteorological Buoys: "Ocean Wind" is a proposed 1950 MW wind farm that would be about 19 miles east of Atlantic City, NJ. By the first week in September Region 2 plans to publish for public comment a draft air permit for Ocean Wind's meteorological buoys, which would have diesel generators on board. This is an Outer Continental Shelf permit to construct and operate the buoys, which are anticipated to operate for up to 2 years. The draft was coordinated with OGC and OAR.

Calverton PFAS: On 9/6 the Navy will host a public meeting at Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant Calverton, NJ, regarding PFAS contamination. Navy sampling on- and off-site in 2016 showed exceedance of EPA's Health Advisory in several monitoring wells; results at the one residential well sampled at that time were below the HA level. Potentially affected residents will be asked for permission to sample private water wells. The Navy has asked Region 2 to provide technical support.

Drinking Water Compliance Orders: We will be issuing non-penalty compliance orders to: (A) 5 small systems in NY to address violations of the MCL for total trihalomethanes (the systems have been in and out of compliance since at least 2017 and will be required to develop a corrective action plans); and (B) 4 transient, non-community public water systems in NY for failure to monitor as required under the Revised Total Coliform Rule (these have also been in and out of compliance since at least 2017 and will be required to complete the required monitoring). We will offer compliance assistance to each system.

NY/NJ Federal Leadership Resilience Collaborative. On 8/17 Chief of Staff Chris Lyon and senior regional staff will participate in a meeting of this inter-agency group focusing on projects associated with recovery from Superstorm Sandy in 2012. RA Pete Lopez expects to participate by conference call.

DuPont/Chemours Pompton Lakes NJ Works - RCRA Corrective Action: On 8/16 NJDEP Commissioner McCabe and staff met with 2 community groups; and on 8/17 she will meet with the Mayor and other town officials, private residents, and local elected officials including representatives from Congressman Frelinghuysen's office. EPA will be represented by DRA Walter Mugdan at the 8/17 meeting.

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Region 3

Hot Topics

$327.7 Million for 36 Water Quality Improvement Projects in Maryland

On August 8, 2018, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) received its FY 2018 Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) award, including $38,820,000 in federal funds and $7,764,000 in state matching funds. This grant further capitalizes MDE's CWSRF Program and will be combined with repayments from prior loans, interest earnings on fund deposits, and $180 million in bond proceeds for a total of approximately $327.7 million in available funding this year. The CWSRF program provides low interest loans for the construction of wastewater treatment facilities, non-point source and estuary projects, that are vital to protect and improve water quality in our nation's rivers, lakes, and streams for drinking water, recreation, and natural habitat.

American Zinc Recycling

American Zinc Recycling Corp is a facility in Palmerton, PA, which recycles dust from electric arc furnaces. Due to ambient air quality violations, EPA asked ATSDR to conduct a health evaluation for potential lead exposure in the community this past January 2018. That study and concludes that a public health hazard is likely for young children and pregnant women living within three miles of the AZR facility. Region 3 has drafted a communications plan and will work with ATSDR and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) in planning a public meeting about the findings. Region 3 has been coordinating with PA DEP on our inspections and findings, which date back through 2014. There are potential violations for Clean Water, Safe Drinking Water, EPCRA, RCRA, and Air. The case was previously referred to DOJ for Air and RCRA violations. Additionally, a multi-media inspection may result in additional counts. We have coordinated closely with OECA and DOJ, to expedite the referral and remedy ongoing environmental and health risks.

Meeting with United States Steel Corporation and Allegheny County Health Department

On August 15, 2018, EPA Region 3 hosted a meeting with the United States Steel Corporation and the Allegheny County Health Department. The meeting identified steps towards resolution of Clean Air Act violations alleged in a November 9, 2017 Notice of Violation against United States Steel Corporation's Edgar Thomson Plant.

Meeting with PA Coal Alliance, Rosebud Mining, and PA DEP

On August 14, 2018, Region 3 hosted a meeting with the PA Coal Alliance, Rosebud Mining, and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) to discuss the Kiski-Conemaugh TMDL and innovative ideas to provide assimilative capacity for new mining operation discharges. There was shared commitment to have follow-up meetings to discuss the specifics of a framework within the boundaries of the existing TMDL to allow for both additional mining and environmental improvement in the watershed. Rosebud Mining and the PA Coal Alliance will be proposing a project for DEP to review, with our support as needed.

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Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

August 27- 30 Regional Administrator Cosmo Servidio will attend the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) Fall Meeting in Stowe, Vermont

Region 4

Hot Issues

Oak Ridge Reservation, Department of Energy (Oak Ridge, TN)
Key Message: On Wednesday, August 22nd, Region 4 plans to hold a call with the Department of Energy and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation regarding the SEC formal dispute at the EMDF Waste Disposal unit at their Oak Ridge Reservation facility.

404 Assumption
Key Message: On August 21st, Region 4 plans to meet with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to discuss finalization of the memorandum of agreement related to the Endangered Species Act. During this meeting, it is expected that the state's submittal timelines will also be discussed.

Ethylene Oxide
Key Message: Region 4 notified the Georgia Department of Environmental Protection that the Agency is in the process of verifying emissions data from two sterilization facilities in Georgia in support of the National Air Toxics Assessment Report.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Orlando Business Roundtable – On August 23rd, Region 4 Administrator Trey Glenn will speak at a business roundtable with various stakeholders in the Orlando, FL area. Orlando, FL. Closed Press.

Orlando Gasification Site Tour – On August 23rd, Region 4 Administrator Trey Glenn will tour the Orlando Gasification Superfund site to observe some of the ongoing site excavation. Orlando, FL. Closed Press.

Association of Florida Community Developers – On August 24th, Region 4 Administrator Trey Glenn will provide keynote remarks at the Association of Florida Community Developers. Orlando, FL. Closed Press.

Region 5

HOT ISSUES:

Parchment, Mich. Residents to Receive Kalamazoo Water as Early as August 20
Key Message: Parchment, Mich., residents to remain on bottled water until at least Aug. 20.

Parchment's water supply was found to be contaminated with high levels of PFAS. The city of Kalamazoo has agreed to supply drinking water to the city of Parchment for at least the next year. MDEQ continues to closely monitor water quality to ensure the proper water chemistry is achieved as the service lines in the Parchment system are converted to the City of Kalamazoo service lines.

Flint Criminal Trial Testimony on August 22
Key Message: Region 5 employee Miguel Del Toral will testify on Aug. 22 at a preliminary hearing in the state criminal proceedings against Stephen Busch, Michael Prysby, Patrick Cook and Liane Shekter-Smith. All were Michigan Department of Environmental Quality employees at relevant times during the Flint drinking water crisis. The charges include Misconduct in Office, Tampering with Evidence and Conspiracy.

Sterigenics Rollout Timing
Key Message: Next week ATSDR will release its evaluation of ethylene oxide emissions from the Sterigenics facility in suburban Willowbrook, Ill. Region 5 is coordinating communications and rollout strategy with OAQPS and OPA and plans to make announcement on Wednesday, Aug. 22.

ATSDR started its evaluation in June 2018 after Region 5 monitoring data indicated elevated levels of EtO in the ambient air around the facility. The evaluation concludes that "an elevated cancer risk exists for residents and off-site workers." Region 5's COOP location and Superfund warehouse is adjacent to the Sterigenics facility.

Lead-Contaminated Soil Found at Oaks Academy Middle School in Indianapolis, Ind.
Key Message: EPA will begin a removal action next week to clean up soils with elevated lead concentrations in front of Oaks Academy Middle School in Indianapolis.

During EPA's site investigation at the American Lead Site in Indianapolis, EPA found lead concentrations above the residential action level standard in the soil near the front entrance of the Oaks Academy Middle School. The removal action is anticipated to last seven days. EPA is preparing a fact sheet to distribute to students and parents and is working with the school to provide additional information.

UPCOMING EVENTS/MAJOR DECISIONS:

RA Stepp to Speak at Environmental Financial Advisory Board in Chicago on August 21
Key Message: RA Stepp will be a keynote speaker at the EFAB meeting to discuss key agency issues in Region 5.

RA Stepp to Tour NEORSD and Oil and Gas Production Facilities in Ohio on August 22 and 23
Key Message: RA Stepp will join Ohio EPA commissioner on visits to Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, Port of Cleveland and several Ohio oil and gas production facilities.

Region 6

We had a great state directors meeting today and I cannot thank Ken, Anna, and Erin enough for their active participation. The state directors appreciated their candor and the open discussion that took place throughout the day. All in all, a very productive and positive meeting.

Hot Topics

Texas Gulf Terminals, Texas
On August 10, 2018, a completeness status letter was sent to Texas Gulf Terminals on their PSD permit application. The permit application was found to be incomplete. The company has requested to submit a response by August 31.

Georgia Pacific, Crossett, Arkansas
EPA and Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) continue to discuss EPA's interim objection dated May 19, 2017 regarding the Georgia Pacific - Crossett Paper Operation preliminary draft permit (PDPADEQ plans to submit an official response to EPA's interim objection in late August to early September 2018. EPA will also transmit the draft informal resolution agreement for the Civil Rights Title VI complaint regarding the state's NPDES permit to ADEQ on August 17.

Donna Canal and Reservoir Site, Donna, Texas
By August 17, 2018, EPA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service anticipate completing the fishdepopulation and removal work at the Donna Canal site. Despite health warnings from EPA, state, and local agencies, residents continue to catch and consume PCB-contaminated fish from the canal and reservoir.

HP Gas Cylinders Update, Baytown, Texas
EPA and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) continue removal of deteriorated cylinders improperly stored at the site. Progress continues however several hundred cylinders remain.

Major Decisions and Events

Texas Regional Haze BART FIP
By August 17, consistent with a July 2 court status report, EPA will re-propose a FIP in Texas for Regional Haze Bart on EGUs.

Oklahoma 2016 SIP Permitting Revisions, Oklahoma
By August 23, EPA intends to issue final approval of the Oklahoma 2016 General SIP Permitting Revisions.

SO2 Redesignation Request, Independence County, Arkansas
By September 30, EPA Region 6 intends to propose action on a May 11, 2018 request from Governor Hutchinson of Arkansas for redesignation of Independence County from unclassifiable to unclassifiable/attainment based on new modeling. This is expected to be the first such action in the country.

August 27-29 ECOS Fall Meeting
August 30 Annual Roundtable with US Army Corps of Engineers, Dallas, Texas

Region 7

Hot Issues

West Lake Landfill Site Update

Key Message: EPA Region 7 continues to focus on completion of the ROD amendment by the end of September.

- Region 7 is focusing efforts on preparing the ROD and Responsiveness Summary, and held a technical call with the US Army Corps of Engineers on August 13.
- The region has initiated discussions with OLEM and the AO regarding plans for the public announcement of the decision. Region 7 provided options for the rollout to headquarters early this week for consideration by Acting Administrator Wheeler.
- Region 7 held an initial planning call with OSRTI who is assisting with development of a fact sheet to accompany the public rollout of the ROD Amendment.
- On August 17, the Region will brief the OLEM Deputy Assistant Administrator on the pending North Quarry investigation.
- This week the region received the PRP's latest response on the OU3 draft statement of work. The document is under review.

Stakeholder Meeting on Next NGA West Project (St. Louis, MO)

Key Message: EPA Region 7 meeting with the City of St. Louis, MDNR, and other federal partners on the status of the Next NGA West Project

- At the request of the city of St Louis Land Clearance Redevelopment Authority, Regional Administrator Jim Gulliford and other Region 7 representatives will attend a site tour and meeting on August 17, 2018 regarding the status of the Next NGA West project in St. Louis. Senior leaders from DOD, US Air Force, US Army Corps of Engineers, and MDNR will also attend the site tour and meeting.
- Cleanup actions at the site are being performed by the city under the MDNR Voluntary Cleanup Program to get the site ready for redevelopment. The US Air Force is expected to acquire the property in November 2018, and the US Army Corps of Engineers will conduct the design and construction of the new NGA complex at the site.

Upcoming Events

Meeting with Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality Leadership

Key Message: On August 23, Regional Administrator Jim Gulliford and members of EPA Region 7 Senior Staff will travel to Lincoln, NE to meet with Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality Director Jim Macy and Staff to discuss how NDEQ and EPA will work together to advance state and EPA priorities.

Region 8

Hot Issues -

Colorado Smelter Superfund Site, Pueblo, Colorado On August 13-14, 2018, the first of several Superfund Job Training Initiative Recruitment Events was held in Pueblo, CO. Approximately 26 community members attended the sessions; six of whom represent two local environmental contractors. EPA is targeting enough recruits to complete the training so that up to 25 people may be ready to compete for a job with the long-term cleanup contractor.

Upcoming Decisions/Events -

Consultation with Ute Tribal Leadership (Uintah and Ouray Reservation in Utah) On Friday, August 16, 2018 HQ will consult with the Ute Tribal Leadership on the National O&G FIP Amendment. Following the consultation R8 will have discussions with the Tribal Leadership on many topics including the reservation specific FIP, plans to return basin to attainment for ozone, and the coal combustion residual permit program.

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Region 9

HOT ISSUES

1. **No. California Wildfires**: several drinking water systems continue to be affected by major fires, operating under boil-water notices. In Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, major system damage has occurred, the 5 water systems' status is unknown, and a do-not-drink order is in effect. In the Merced County Ferguson fire near Yosemite National Park, 4 community and 12 non-community water systems remain evacuated. We continue to stay in close communication with state partners.

UPCOMING DECISIONS AND EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT

1. **Arizona:** Regional Administrator Mike Stoker will address the Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Arizona Manufacturing Council on Monday, August 20 at their annual meeting in Prescott. Acting Deputy Administrator Henry Darwin will address the group the following day. Mr. Stoker will also meet with Phoenix Mayor Thelda Williams, with Sen. McCain's office, and with representatives of HudBay regarding the proposed Rosemont Mine.
2. **So. California**: RA Mike Stoker and counsellor Chris Hage will meet with Los Angeles Dept. of Water and Power executives regarding water infrastructure issues raised by Eastern Sierra tribes in recent meetings. They will also tour our nearly-completed chemicals removal action at the Bellflower site and our So. California emergency response facility in Signal Hill.
3. **CAA plan approval**: the Regional Administrator will propose approval of portions of the San Joaquin Valley (CA) 2008 ozone attainment plan. Several aspects of the plan were affected by recent court decisions, for which we'll take action later. We are cognizant of Dec. 2018 and January 2019 court deadlines to take final actions on this plan.
4. **UIC Settlements**: we will public-notice a proposed SDWA UIC administrative order in which USDA has agreed to close 62 large-capacity cesspools on federal land (primarily USFS land) by December 2020. EPA banned large-capacity cesspools in 2005. We'll also public-notice our final order with one of the largest private landowners in Hawaii, Kamehameha Schools, for a large-capacity cesspool on property it owns. They will pay a $99K penalty, and audit their 363,000-acre holdings to identify any remaining cesspools; this audit will support the State's strategy to close/upgrade all cesspools, small or large, by 2050.

Region 10

Hot Issues

Oregon Congressman/Chairman Walden Seeks Information on Wildfire Emergency Management Coordination: On August 15, EPA Region 9 and 10's Emergency Management Programs, OLEM and OAR provided information to Acting Administrator Wheeler so that he could brief Oregon Congressman Walden on EPA's support for wildfire responses in Oregon and Northern California. The main topics covered were ongoing coordination efforts with state responders, status of any state/federal requests for support, and readiness posture to support the state of Oregon, if needed. In addition, Chairman Walden has requested the Acting Administrator's attendance at a field hearing in southern Oregon on August 24. It is likely that Region 10 Administrator Hladick will attend the hearing on the Acting Administrator's behalf.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Region 10 and WA Dept. of Ecology Work Together on Clean Air Act permits for Pulp Mill: On August 20, Region 10 plans to begin a 30-day public comment period on a draft Clean Air Act Prevention of Significant Deterioration permit for CO2 emissions from the PCA Boise White Paper pulp mill plant expansion in Wallula, Washington. The Washington Department of Ecology will concurrently issue a draft permit for the other regulated pollutants that are subject to PSD (CO and NOx). EPA is the permitting authority in Washington for CO2 emissions from the combustion of biomass because these emissions are exempt from state regulation. Headquarters OAQPS management and staff are aware of this permitting action.

Region 10 Assists Idaho DEQ on Tanker Crash Cleanup: The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality asked for Region 10's assistance following a fatal tanker crash which threatened the Potlatch River. The dump truck had approximately 100 gallons of diesel in its saddle tanks, and other petroleum products such as motor and hydraulic oil spilled into the flowing creek bed. Brady Gulch is a tributary to the Potlatch River, which is a significant steelhead run and is used as a public drinking water source. An unknown amount of fuel and oil entered the waterway. Boom and sorbent pads were applied to temporarily mitigate the situation. Due to difficulty accessing the scene and the threats to the Potlatch River, IDEQ requested EPA assistance with the response. All recoverable petroleum products have now been removed from the vehicle and equipment and the wreckage has been removed from Brady Gulch. Contaminated soil removal and disposal should be completed by end of week.

Idaho Suction Dredge Miner Sued by Idaho Conservation League: The Idaho Conservation League (ICL) filed suit in federal district court against a California miner alleging multiple violations of the Clean Water Act. ICL warned the miner in 2016, 2017 and 2018 to stop suction dredge mining in the South Fork Clearwater River without appropriate permits from EPA and the USFS. According to the suit, the miner has ignored federal requirements associated with recreational suction dredge mining in the South Fork Clearwater near Grangeville. Region 10 has issued several permits for legal suction dredging in Idaho, but the federal permitting remains controversial for some miners.

Region 10 Enters Agreement With Alaska's Denali Commission for Rural Solid Waste Pilot Program: In August, Region 10 plans to enter an Interagency Agreement with the Denali Commission to collaborate on the development of the Backhaul Alaska program. Under this agreement, EPA and the Denali Commission will work to incorporate the Commission's vast experience providing critical utilities, infrastructure, and economic

support throughout Alaska to carry out the Backhaul Alaska solid waste removal/disposal pilot projects and program development work.

Alaska Tribe Requests Consultation on Donlin Mine Permit Process: The Alaska District Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Land Management signed the Joint ROD for the Donlin Gold mine in Alaska, and the Corps issued the CWA 404 permit on August 13. A number of Native Villages have passed formal resolutions objecting to the Donlin mine and the process by which the agencies consulted with them. Recently, the Orutsararmiut Native Council formally requested government-government consultation with EPA on the Donlin Gold mine.

Wyckoff Eagle Harbor Superfund Site event on Bainbridge Island with Kitsap Sun: In late August, the news outlet the Kitsap Sun is hosting a "Story Walk" public event on Bainbridge Island to show residents interesting and newsworthy locations and activities. As part of the activities, EPA's Superfund project manager and WA Dept. of Ecology staff will give a tour and answer questions about the Wyckoff/Eagle Harbor Superfund cleanup.

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Office of Administration and Resources Management

Hot Issues

On August 10, 2018, the EPA Suspension and Debarment Official issued a decision continuing the suspension of Dennis Falaschi, the former General Manager of Panoche Water District. The Water District previously received a $5.6 million loan from the California Water State Revolving Fund, funded primarily by EPA grants, and is currently a subcontractor under grants awarded by Department of Interior Bureau of Reclamation. The suspension is based on a State of California Felony Complaint charging Mr. Falaschi and other PWD employees with various offenses related to misuse of government funds for private purposes (Embezzlement and Misappropriation of Public Funds, and Conspiracy to Misappropriate Public Funds), and unlawful transportation and disposal of hazardous waste. The suspension of Mr. Falaschi from receiving federal contracts and covered transactions to protect the public interest pending completion of legal proceedings remains in place

Upcoming Major Decisions & Events

None

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Office of Air and Radiation

Hot Topics

- **Tracking SIP Actions:**
  - Total Number of SIPs submitted to Regions in FY 2018: 264
  - Total Number of SIP Submittals with Final Action taken by the Regions in FY 2018: 247
  - Total Number of Pending SIPs: 740

- **Packages that will move soon to Signature:**
  - State Guidelines for Greenhouse Gas Emissions From Existing Electric Utility Generating Units (expected to clear OMB soon)
  - Health and Environmental Protection Standards for Uranium and Thorium Mill Tailings (Withdrawal of Proposed Rule) – Note OAR is updating the package and will be submitting a new version to the 3rd floor soon.

- **Packages at OMB for Review:**
  - Oil and Natural Gas Sector: Emission Standards for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources Reconsideration (Proposed Rule)
  - Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Revisions to the Refrigerant Management Program's Extension to Substitutes (Proposed Rule)
  - Light - Duty Vehicle GHG Program Tech Amendments (Proposed Rule)
  - Implementation of the 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone: Nonattainment Area State Implementation Plan Requirements (Final Rule)
  - Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) and Nonattainment New Source Review (NNSR): Project Aggregation Reconsideration (Final Rule)
  - Standards of Performances for New Residential Wood Heaters, New Residential Hydronic Heaters and Forced Air Furnaces (Proposed Rule)
  - Standards of Performances for New Residential Wood Heaters, New Residential Hydronic Heaters and Forced Air Furnaces (ANPRM)

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

- **Power Plant Pollutant and Effluent Control Mega Symposium**: On August 21, Mandy will be in Baltimore to speak at the Mega Symposium, a bi-annual technical conference focused on environmental controls.

- **G7 Environment Ministers Prep Meeting:** On August 22 and 23, Mandy will be in Toronto for the G7 Environment Ministerial preparatory meeting.

- **NATA:** EPA will soon release the National-Scale Air Toxics Assessment (NATA) based on 2014 air emissions data. NATA is EPA's ongoing comprehensive evaluation of air toxics in the U.S. It is a screening tool that provides estimates of the risk of cancer and other serious health effects from breathing (inhaling) air toxics in order to inform both national and more localized efforts to identify and prioritize air toxics, emission source types and locations which are of greatest potential concern in terms of contributing to population risk.

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Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention

Row	Determination Type	Pending on 8/14/2018	Determinations Completed[1] as 8/14/2018	Determinations Posted on the Website as of 8/14/2018[6]
1	# of "not likely" determinations	**0**	**127[4]**	**127[4]**
2	# of §5(e) Orders signed by both EPA and the submitter	-	**426**	**425**
3	# of §5(e) Orders signed by EPA and awaiting submitter signature	**40**	-	-
4	# of non-Order SNURs/"not likely" determinations	**0**	**0**	**0**
5	# of cases in post-FOCUS final determination development[5]	**345[3, 5]**	-	-
5d	- # cases post-OD determination (non-order SNURs/Orders)	**60 (48/12)**	-	-
6	- # of cases flagged for in-depth review	**58**	-	-
7	- # of PMNs, SNUNs and MCANs awaiting FOCUS (within 90-day review)	**32**	-	-
8	- # of LVE/LOREX exemption grants	-	**651**	**645**
9	# of LVE/LOREX exemption denials	-	**121**	**121**
10	**Total number of cases**	**475**	**1325**	-
11	Normal active workload for the New Chemicals Program	**300**	-	-
12	Number of cases undergoing testing or data development by submitter	72[3]	-	-
13	**Backlog[2]**	**103**	-	-

[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 58 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 ISSUES

Inter and Intra-Agency Solicitation of Feedback on 20 High and 20 Low-Priority Chemicals: EPA is soliciting input from other Federal agencies and EPA National Programs, ahead of initiating the formal TSCA Prioritization process, to gather input on chemicals that EPA should consider as potential candidates for designations as high-priority for risk evaluation and should therefore be included in the first group of chemicals to go through TSCA prioritization. TSCA, as amended, requires EPA to evaluate existing chemicals for risk of injury to health and the environment. To meet the December 2019 deadline for 20 ongoing risk evaluations, EPA expects to initiate the TSCA prioritization process in January 2019.

OCSPP Soliciting Proposals for Pollution Prevention Grants: OCSPP has announced a grant competition to fund two-year Source Reduction Assistance (SRA) agreements that support source reduction approaches (also known as "pollution prevention" or "P2"). OCSPP plans to award approximately $2 million in federal grant funding over a two-year funding cycle ($1 million in FY 2018 and $1 million in FY 2019) to support SRA agreements offered as grants and/or cooperative agreements. Proposals are due Thursday, August 23, 2018. The solicitation for this grant competition and more information can be found at: https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=307060 and at: https://www.epa.gov/p2/grant-programs-pollution-prevention#sra

UPCOMING ACTIVITES

National Pesticide Applicator Certification and Safety Education Workshop: OPP staff will present on Addressing WPS Implementation Challenges and EPA Collaboration with Partners at the National Pesticide Applicator Certification and Safety Education Workshop on August 21, in San Antonio, Texas.

Association of Structural Pest Control Regulatory Officials: Rick Keigwin, Director of OPP, will provide an update on Pesticide Program activities and Helen Hull-Sanders will present on resistance management at the Association of Structural Pest Control Regulatory Officials Annual Meeting on August 20-24, in San Antonio, Texas.

Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Hot Topics

- The Senate and House Appropriations Committees staff started conference negotiations on the EPA's FY 2019 appropriations bill. A schedule for completion has not been released, however, it is anticipated that a negotiated bill will be released in early September.
- OCFO continues to work with the agency to develop and clear responses through OMB for the Senate Appropriations Committee Questions for the Record.
- OCFO also continues to work with the agency on completing the FY 2020 OMB Submission, due to OMB on September 10, which typically includes a transmittal message from the Acting Administrator.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

- OCFO engaged with OMB to convene a discussion of the agency's proposed approach to the FY 2020 budget measures and targets. OMB has identified OMB participants and is interested in hosting/scheduling the meeting as early as the week of August 20. In addition, OCFO has scheduled weekly meetings with the Associate DA/COO to address the integration of the proposed measures and targets in the agency's FY 2020 Budget.
- OCFO submitted EPA's Draft FY 2018 Q3 Agency Priority Goal (APG) Action Plan updates to OMB on August 10, as required. OCFO will work with NPMs to address any OMB comments and submit final Action Plans by the August 31 deadline. OMB expects to publish the final versions on performance.gov by September 20.

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Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations

Upcoming Hot Issues and Important Deadlines

- **Aug. 20** - Senate Environment and Public Works, Subcommittee on Transportation & Infrastructure will hold a Field hearing on: Ellicott City, MD Flooding @1pm **(EPA Witness: R3 DRA Cecil Rodgers)**
- **Sept 6** - House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Environment, will hold a hearing on "Perfluorinated Chemicals in the Environment" **(EPA Witness: Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water Director Peter Grevatt)**

Upcoming Events

- OIR is working with OP and OW to publish the announcement of three new Office of Water "WIIN" Grants, which will become PPG eligible in FY 2019. The Grants will provide for: Reducing Lead in Drinking Water, Assistance for Public Water Systems in Small and Disadvantaged Communities, and the establishment of a voluntary school and child lead testing program

Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

Hot Topics:

Settlement to Resolve Clean Water Act Violations in Ohio
On August 10, 2018, the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency finalized a consent decree with Richard Osborne, Sr. and Great Plains LLC. The settlement resolves Clean Water Act violations for discharging dredged or fill material into jurisdictional wetlands without a Section 404 permit at a rock-crushing facility on a 73-acre parcel of land in Painesville, Ohio. As injunctive relief to mitigate the harm caused by the loss of filled wetlands, the settlement requires Osborne to transfer title of a Preservation Area (consisting of approximately 11 acres of undisturbed wetlands elsewhere on the site) to the Lake County Land Reutilization Corp. The Preservation Area will be preserved via a conservation easement with the Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District. The settlement also requires that Great Plains deposit $20,000 with the Clerk of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio who will disburse the funds for the conservation of the Preservation Area in perpetuity. Defendants Osborne and Great Plains are currently in bankruptcy proceedings and, as such, the consent decree does not require payment of a civil penalty.

Cleanup and Redevelopment Agreement at McLouth Steel Facility Published for Public Comment
On August 14, 2018, EPA published for public comment an Administrative Settlement Agreement and Covenant Not to Sue with a prospective purchaser for an approximately 180-acre portion of the 270-acre former McLouth Steel Products Corporation Facility in Trenton and Riverview, Michigan. EPA, DOJ, and the State of Michigan negotiated the agreement with MSC Land Company, LLC and its affiliate, Crown Enterprises, Inc. Under the agreement, MSC Land Company will demolish on-site buildings and implement other cleanup actions at an estimated cost of $25 million. These activities represent the priority work needed to reduce the threat of direct exposure to hazardous substances and protect the Detroit River. MSC Land Company must also take additional cleanup actions in any development areas and prevent access to undeveloped or unremediated portions of the property.

Enforcement and Compliance History Online Design Update Enhances Usability
OECA finished a redesign of the Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO) home page. The ECHO redesign has simplified and streamlined the home page, allowing users to more quickly navigate to content that interests them. The improvements stem from past user concerns about site navigation and common questions received during webinars, site user interviews, and feedback from an Office of Environmental Information usability workshop.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

None.

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Office of Environmental Information

Hot Topics

Annual Nation's Air Report Released in Interactive Format

- **Brief description:** On July 31, 2018, EPA released its annual report on air quality, "Our Nation's Air: Status and Trends Through 2017." The report highlights that the combined emissions of six key pollutants dropped by 73 percent, while the U.S. economy grew more than three times.
- **Who benefits or cares:** The public, state and local government agencies, EPA researchers.
- **Why this is important:** The report includes a number of interactive visualizations, which enable citizens, policymakers and stakeholders to view and download detailed information by pollutant, geographic location and year.
- **Additional information:**
  - Contact: Arthur Zuco, EPA Geospatial Program, OEI, (919) 541-4883.

Identity and Access Management Migration to New Platform

- **Brief description:** OEI is migrating the Agency's Identity and Access Management (IAM) environment to a new platform developed based on federal mandates Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 (HSPD-12) and OMB M-11-11: The Federal Identity, Credential, and Access Management Roadmap and Implementation Guide (FICAM).
- **Who benefits or cares:** EPA leadership, U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Office of Management and Budget (OMB).
- **Why this is important:** The new platform supports compliance, e-Government initiatives, the expansion of Federation and EPA's security posture.
- **Additional information:**
  - OEI is in the process of migrating over 600 applications to the new platform. OEI expects to complete migration by the end of December 2018.
  - Progress tracking is available on the Oracle Migration Website Dashboard.
  - Contact: John Gibson, Office of Information Technology Operations, OEI, (919) 541-0112.

Upcoming Public Events

NA

Upcoming Major Decisions

NA

Office of General Counsel

Hot Topics

- *LULAC v. Wheeler*, No. 17-71636 (9th Cir.) New decision: On August 9, the court vacated EPA's March 2017 order denying PANNA and NRDC's 2007 petition to effectively ban chlorpyrifos under the FFDCA and FIFRA, and directed EPA to revoke all chlorpyrifos tolerances and cancel all chlorpyrifos FIFRA registrations within 60 days. In so doing, the court rejected EPA's argument that the court lacks jurisdiction to hear a challenge to a petition denial and only has jurisdiction to review an EPA order after the FFDCA objections process that follows a denial order. The court held that petitioners were not required to first exhaust their administrative remedies by awaiting EPA's response to their objections in light of the strong individual interests against requiring exhaustion and weak institutional interests in favor of it. The court also held that there was no justification for the EPA's decision in its 2017 order in the face of scientific evidence that chlorpyrifos residues on food cause neurodevelopmental damage to children.

- *Wild Fish Conservancy v. EPA,* No. 15-01731 (W.D. Wash.). New decision: On August 7, the court denied EPA's motion for judgment on the pleadings in this case raising an ESA challenge to EPA's 2011 approval of Washington's sediment management standards. The court found that EPA had a duty to consult with NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service on approval of the sediment management standard and that the scope of that consultation would include effects of net pens, such as disease and escapement risks. The court also found that EPA retained sufficient discretionary involvement or control over the 303(c) water quality standards approval to reinitiate ESA consultation, and if one of the 50 CFR 402.16 reinitiation triggers is met (e.g. new information reveals unconsidered effects to listed species), EPA has the duty to reinitiate.

- *Los Angeles Waterkeeper v. Pruitt,* No. 17-cv-03454 (C.D. Cal.). New decision: On August 9, the court granted plaintiffs' motion for summary judgment finding that EPA acted arbitrarily and capriciously in denying Plaintiffs' petition to designate commercial, institutional and industrial sites in the Dominguez and Los Cerritos Channel watersheds in Los Angeles as regulated stormwater discharges under the Clean Water Act. Under CWA section 402(p), no stormwater discharges are regulated unless they fall under one of five categories, the fifth of which is a discharge that the Administrator determines contributes to a violation of a water quality standard or is a significant contributor of a pollutant to a water of the United States. Citing *Entergy Corp. v. Riverkeeper, Inc.* (2009), EPA argued that it could consider the adequacy of existing controls as a relevant factor and the court disagreed, citing *Massachusetts v. EPA* (2007), concluding that the CWA requires EPA "to either (1) engage in the NPDES permitting process for the discharge at issue or (2) prohibit the discharge."

- *Envtl. Def. Fund v. EPA,* No. 18-7085 (S.D.N.Y.). New Litigation: On August 7, plaintiff filed a FOIA lawsuit alleging that EPA did not respond to two FOIA requests within the statutory time period to a request seeking records sent or received from a list of 19 people (former-Administrator Pruitt, Ryan Jackson, Byron Brown, etc.) that contained phrases related to scientific transparency in regulatory decisions.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

8/27 Response to petition for writ of certiorari due in *Honeywell Int'l v. Mexichem Fluor* (S. Ct.), related to decision on EPA's 2015 SNAP rule.

Office of International and Tribal Affairs

Tribal Lands and Environment Forum (TLEF) – EPA and the Northern Arizona University/Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals co-hosted this annual tribal conference on land and water resource management. This year's conference was attended by over 500 participants and 130 tribes and covered a broad range of topics, including solid/hazardous waste management, underground storage tanks, Brownfields and Superfund site assessment/cleanup, emergency management, water quality, addressing PFAS, drinking water infrastructure, and habitat restoration. The PFAS session provided an overview of current activities EPA is undertaking to address PFAS, included identifying PFAS, solutions for addressing PFAS, and communicating PFAS – similar to EPA's National Leadership Summit in May and subsequent community engagement events around the country. In addition, there was a session on the Indian General Assistance Program (GAP) national pilot to share GAP success stories in tribal communities. Representatives of the National Tribal Caucus, Regional Tribal Operation Committees, and Tribal Partnership Groups also met to discuss coordination in identifying tribal priorities and engaging with EPA.

Proposed Ban on Imports of Solid Waste in China – China recently released a proposal to their Prevention and Control of Environmental Pollution from Solid Waste law, which includes an explicit ban on solid waste imports in China. The U.S. government is submitting comments regarding this proposal to the Chinese government and to the World Trade Organization (WTO). The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative will make the submission, with input from various agencies, including EPA. Among other concerns, we would not want the proposed law to eventually result in a ban on imports of recyclable or recoverable materials. In July, 2017, China notified the WTO of its plan to forbid the import of 4 classes and 24 kinds of solid waste starting in 2018. In China and in other countries, the terms "waste" and "solid waste" are inclusive of both trash and scrap; waste is a material that has no value and is disposed because it's no longer useful, whereas scrap (recyclable material or secondary material) has value as a commodity and can be used as a raw material. Many stakeholders from the U.S. recycling industry and state/local governments expressed serious concern about this ban, including the potential for significant disruptions to municipal recycling programs and global commodities markets. China is the United States' largest export market for scrap, reportedly accounting for roughly $5.6 billion of all U.S. scrap exports in 2016.

Upcoming Major Engagements/Decisions:

August 22-23 - G7 Environment Ministerial preparatory meeting in Toronto, Canada.

September 5 – German Ambassador introductory meeting in Washington, D.C.

September 18-20 – G7 Environment and Oceans Ministerial meeting in Halifax, Canada.

Office of Land and Emergency Management

Hot Topics

1. **Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR).**

2. **Clean Air Act 112(r) Risk Management Program (RMP) Reconsideration NPRM.** The Notice of Data Availability (NODA) was published in the FR on July 24. The public comment period for the NPRM (extended 30 days from the date of FR publication of the NODA) is now until August 23.

3. **Ongoing major Superfund NPL sites (such as East Chicago, West Lake, Bonita Peak, Hudson River, Portland Harbor, Oak Ridge, Edwards AFB).**

4. **CERCLA 108(b) Financial Assurance (next three sectors).**

5. **PFAS.**
   a. OLEM is working closely with other offices in the agency on the PFOA and PFOS contaminated groundwater guidance.
   b. OLEM is working with the AO, OGC, OECA, OW, OAR, and OCSPP to look at available statutory mechanisms for PFOA and PFOS to be "hazardous substances" under CERCLA.

6. **e-Manifest.**

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

1. **Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO) Meeting.** Several OLEM managers will participate in the ASTSWMO Brownfields and Superfund Symposium in Jacksonville, FL on August 20 – 22.

2. **EPCRA Reporting Requirements Interpretation relating to Air Releases of Hazardous Substances from Animal Waste at Farms NPRM.** OMB/Interagency review began on August 7.

3. **Coal Combustion Residuals.**
   a. The proposed rule was published in the FR on July 30.
   b. Now Georgia, Kansas, and Alabama have submitted their CCR permit program application to EPA.

4. **Hazardous Waste Pharmaceuticals Final Rule.** This rule package is with OMB for review.

5. **Hazardous Substances Spill Prevention Proposed Rule.** This rule package was published in the FR and comments are due by August 24..

Office of Policy

Upcoming Major Decisions or Events

Presentation to Northern Border Regional Commission - On August 22, Matt Dalbey, Director of the Office of Community Revitalization, will be in Hanover, NH to give an overview of technical assistance programs to the NRBC. NRBC is interested in partnering on technical assistance efforts in its service area covering counties in ME, NH, VT, and NY.

Local Foods, Local Places in Kentucky – On August 23-24, staff from the Office of Community Revitalization will be in Louisville, KY to help local leaders identify and implement actions that grow the local food economy, improve health, and protect the environment.

OP

Active Interagency Reviews from OMB	
Subject	**OMB Due Date**
DOI/BLM FRM (Pass-back): "Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation; Rescission or Revision of Certain Requirements"	08/16/2018
DOD/USACE draft RGL: "Enhancing Mitigation Bank Credit Availability and Ensuring Equivalency in Service Area"	08/17/2018

	Documents Submitted to OFR from August 9 - 13, 2018	
FRL	**Title**	**Date Submitted to OFR**
9981-09-Region 9	Air Plan Approval; California; San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District; Reasonably Available Control Technology Demonstration	8/13/2018
9982-31-Region 5	Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Attainment Plan for the Lake County SO2 Nonattainment Area	8/13/2018
9982-26-Region 5	Proposed CERCLA/RCRA/TSCA Administrative Settlement Agreement and Covenant Not to Sue; MSC Land Company, LLC, and Crown Enterprises, Inc.; Former McLouth Steel Facility, Trenton and Riverview, Michigan	8/10/2018
9982-27-Region 7	Air Plan Approval; State of Iowa; Attainment Redesignation for 2008 Lead NAAQS and Associated Maintenance Plan	8/10/2018
9982-28-Region 5	Air Plan Approval; Indiana; Attainment Plan for Indianapolis, Southwest Indiana, and Terre Haute SO2 Nonattainment Areas	8/10/2018
9982-29-Region 5	Air Plan Approval; Wisconsin; Reasonable further progress plan and other plan elements for the moderate nonattainment Chicago area for the 2008 ozone standards	8/10/2018
9982-30-Region 5	Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Approval of Sulfur Dioxide Regulations	8/10/2018
9980-22-Region 10	Proposed CERCLA Administrative Cost Recovery Settlement; Absorbent Technologies Site, Albany, Oregon	8/9/2018
9980-23-OEI	Request for Contractor Access to TSCA CBI (Renewal)/ICR No.1250.11	8/9/2018

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9981-10-OCSPP	Receipt of Several Pesticide Petitions Filed for Residues of Pesticide Chemicals in or on Various Commodities	8/9/2018
9981-33-OEI	Information Collection Request Submitted to OMB for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Experimental Use Permits (EUPs) for Pesticides (Renewal)/ICR No.0276.16	8/9/2018
9981-43-OCSPP	Certain New Chemical Substances; Receipt and Status Information for May 2018	8/9/2018
9981-65-OEI	Data Reporting Requirements for State and Local Vehicle Emission Inspection and Maintenance (I/M) Programs (Renewal)/ICR No.1613.06	8/9/2018
9981-84-OEI	Cross-Media Electronic Reporting: Authorized Program Revision Approval, State of Indiana	8/9/2018
9981-87-OEI	Drug Testing for Contractor Employees (Renewal)/ICR No.2183.07	8/9/2018
9982-04-Region 1	Program Requirement Revisions related to the Public Water System Supervision Programs for the State of Connecticut and the State of New Hampshire	8/9/2018
9982-09-OEI	RCRA Expanded Public Participation (Renewal)/ICR No. 1688.09	8/9/2018
9982-13-OEI	NESHAP for Ferroalloys Production Area Sources (Renewal)/ICR No. 2303.05.	8/9/2018
9982-32-Region 3	Air Plan Approval; Virginia; Regional Haze Plan and Visibility for the 2010 Sulfur Dioxide and 2012 Fine Particulate Matter Standards	8/9/2018

Office of Research and Development

Earlier this week, ORD hosted a productive meeting in Region 6 with state and tribal environmental leaders at our lab in Ada, OK. We were joined by Anne Idsal, David Gray, and Ken Wagner. The meeting focused on state and tribal research priorities and ORD's research capabilities. Next week, ORD will hold our monthly business review.

Hot Issues

Wildfires

A recent article in *Wired* highlighted the current wildfires that are burning across the U.S. particularly in the northwest and showcased ORD research to better understand public health impacts related to wildfire smoke. This piece discusses a study co-authored by ORD in collaboration with scientists at UC-SF and CA DPH to evaluate emergency department visits associated wildfire smoke in California in 2015. This study reported that smoke exposures were associated with cardiovascular and cerebrovascular emergency department visits for all adults, particularly for those over 65 years of age. In addition, the *Wired* article noted EPA's work on a citizen science project using a mobile device application – Smoke Sense, an educational tool and information resource designed for individuals exposed to wildland fire smoke. An update to the Smoke Sense mobile application will be released soon.

PFAS in Michigan drinking water

Recently, Parchment, MI, recorded high PFAS concentration in their drinking water. As a result, the city declared a state of emergency in Kalamazoo county and residents are now relying on bottled water for drinking. The city is in the process of switching to Kalamazoo's drinking water supply. At the invitation of Region 5, ORD researchers are working with the region on subsequent water quality results in Parchment to evaluate the impact of this new source water on their distribution system and premise plumbing.

Tire Crumb

Next week ORD will brief the EPA Tire Crumb Steering Committee on the next steps for the release of the Synthetic Turf Field Tire Crumb Rubber and Exposure Characterization Research DRAFT Report, and presentations about the study that will be made at two upcoming conferences. EPA is currently waiting for CDC to provide additional analysis of samples that will be incorporated into the draft report. At that time, ORD will prepare to release the draft report for public comment via a Federal Register Notice.

West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection Request for PFAS Assistance

On August 13, West Virginia DEP Division of Air Quality sent a request for assistance to EPA Region 3's Air Protection Division. The letter requested assistance from ORD in assessing targeted and non-targeted PFAS from stack test data that Chemours will collect from its Washington Works, West Virginia facility on August 20. Specifically, WV DEP is asking ORD to review the protocol, provide comments/suggestions that might improve the stack test data and enhance interpretation, analyze split samples for the relevant compounds, provide analyses of all the PFAS compounds that are detected in the samples, and provide relevant context and interpretation of the data. In the event that Chemours conducts additional stack testing beyond August 20, WV DEP is requesting ORD help determine the appropriate sampling and analytical techniques, conduct qualitative analysis of split samples to identify target and nontarget PFAS compounds, help WV DEP understand the environmental fate and transport of GenX and other PFAS chemicals released to the air, and prioritize which

contaminant(s) need a risk assessment based on what is actually being measured in the environment via the air emission pathway.

Office of Water

Hot Issues

PFAS Community Engagement, Kansas: Next week, EPA will announce the fifth and final PFAS community engagement event to be held in Leavenworth, Kansas on September 5. The event will consist of listening and working sessions. Both will be open to the public.

National Product Waiver of American Iron and Steel (AIS) Requirements for Stainless Steel Nuts and Bolts: As early as this week, OW anticipates issuing an extension of the short-term national waiver that will allow the purchase of non-domestic stainless steel nuts and bolts used in pipe couplings, restraints, joints, flanges, and saddles for Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) projects for exactly 18 months after the signing date of the waiver. Upon the expiration of this third and final extension, the waiver is set to permanently expire. The waiver will retroactively cover nuts and bolts purchased between February 18, 2018 and the signing date of the waiver. Extension of this waiver until 18 months after signature will give manufacturers the time needed to increase domestic production of the specified stainless steel nuts and bolts and allow time for the domestic market to make significant increases in production as the waiver sunsets. This is a national waiver that likely applies to the majority of SRF-funded projects nationwide.

Clean Water Act Section 404 State Assumption: Next week, Dave, together with Matt Leopold and Trey Glenn, will meet with Florida state officials and officials from the Army Corps of Engineers and the Fish and Wildlife Service to discuss the State's efforts to assume the permitting program.

NPDES Updates Rule: As early as next week, OW anticipates transmitting to OP for OMB review the final rule: *National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES): Applications and Program Updates.* This final rule contains minor, clarifying revisions to the NPDES regulations to eliminate inconsistencies between regulations and application forms, clarify existing regulations, and delete outdated provisions. This final rule also revises application and public notice requirements to promote submission of complete permit applications and allow more timely development of NPDES permits that protect human health and the environment. This rule was identified in the EPA's response to Executive Order 13563: *Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review* and is a Rule Effectiveness pilot.

Puerto Rico SRF: This week, OW attended a meeting with the US Treasury to discuss a broader agreement on restructuring the Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority (PRASA) debt among all parties (including the SRF and other senior bond holders). US Treasury is meeting with the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act (PROMESA) Board this week to determine how to get a broader agreement in place, and we expect to hear about the prospects for such an agreement next week. Additionally, on Friday August 17th, OW will be participating in a meeting with OMB and USDA to discuss restructuring options prior to the expiration of the forbearance on September 30, 2018.

Upcoming Public Events

Environmental Financial Advisory Board (EFAB) Meeting: Next week, the EFAB will meet to hear from informed speakers on environmental finance issues and EPA priorities. The group will discuss activities, progress, and preliminary recommendations regarding current EFAB work projects and consider requests for assistance from EPA program offices. Opening remarks will be provided by Region 5 Administrator Cathy Stepp, as well as Region 7 Deputy Administrator and current EFAB Designated Federal Officer, Ed Chu. The Board will also hear presentations from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago and from the Metropolitan Planning Council. Open press.

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